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# THE TIMES

No. 65,388

TUESDAY OCTOBER 3 1995

Hattersley targets 'BMW owners'

## Brown aims to cut VAT on fuel to 5%

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR would make cutting VAT on fuel to 5 per cent a top priority, Gordon Brown said yesterday, challenging Kenneth Clarke to reduce the tax in the November Budget.

The Shadow Chancellor surprised the Labour conference by signalling that he would cut VAT on power to the lowest rate allowed under European Union rules — a move that would save the average family about £32 a year at a cost of £490 million.

Labour's first tax-cutting proposal, which caught the Conservatives off-guard, came on a successful opening day for the party leadership at Brighton. Tony Blair, who will today try to enthuse his party with his plans for 'building a new Britain', won a series of important votes and saw off an attempt to commit the party to a national minimum wage of £4.15 an hour. The leadership also secured the votes of most of the big unions to ensure that the decision to reject Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate will be endorsed today.

Mr Blair suffered a setback last night when Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary and a close ally, lost his place on the ruling national executive — a victim of the rule requiring that three members of the NEC's constituency section are women. The blow was cushioned, however, by the election in his place of Marjorie Mowlem, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary who is also a moderniser.

Mr Brown's remarks on a 5 per cent VAT rate for fuel, which fell just short of an outright pledge, were designed to counter the party's 'high tax, high spend' image. But his efforts to reassure the middle classes that a Labour government would not penalise them were undermined when Roy Hattersley, a former Shadow Chancellor, told a fringe meeting that Labour could not deliver on its objectives without hitting 'the BMW owners'.

Labour would be tested by whether it achieved a substantial and perceptible redistribution of wealth and power, Mr Hattersley said, and he doubted whether the party could improve pensions, extend child benefit, put the country back to work and build houses without any penalty for the better off.

Mr Hattersley said: 'The real question in government



'The priority is to cut tax on keeping warm for millions of pensioners' — Gordon Brown

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will be: if helping the poor penalises the BMW owners, are we prepared to do it? I'm prepared to do it. And by saying we are prepared to do it, we won't lose votes, we will win votes.'

Mr Brown had earlier outlined plans for a £1 billion jobs programme, financed by a windfall tax on privatised utilities, aimed at wiping out youth unemployment. Mr Brown condemned the declining standards of the utilities saying: 'People will look back in amazement and ask how it is that in an island surrounded by water, built on coal, rich in oil and gas, so much of our basic British resources should have been sold off so wastefully to so few and we should now be held to ransom by them.'

He also called for measures to boost investment in industry before turning to Tory hopes for tax cuts. He said the real issue for the Budget was not to trim income tax by a penny but to increase job security and to stimulate long-term economic recovery. 'The Conservative Party want to cut taxes in November,' he said. 'If that is their aim, the first tax cut they should make — and I know I speak for the country as a whole — should be a cut in VAT on fuel.'

'In three years, the only tax cut people have seen is a Labour tax cut — Labour defeating the Tory plan to raise fuel VAT to 17.5 per cent. Everyone knows the Conservatives would still like to

increase VAT on fuel from 8 to 17.5 per cent, to the highest level possible. We would like to reduce VAT on fuel to the lowest possible level. While they would double it, we would halve it.'

Mr Brown continued: 'After 21 separate tax rises on ordinary families that are the equivalent of 7p in the pound, the priority in tax cannot be to abolish capital gains and inheritance tax, the greatest beneficiaries of which would be the very rich. The tax priority is to cut tax on keeping warm for millions of pensioners and millions of low-income families this winter.'

The Government immediately went on the attack against Mr Brown last night. Michael Jack, the Financial Secretary, said he should come clean and admit that he would tax more. Mr Brown had made ten big spending pledges: 'Labour will always spend more than the Conservatives. They will therefore have to tax more than the Conservatives. Mr Brown's Brighton tax plans alone will tax pay his costly bill.'

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said a windfall tax on the utilities would undermine incentives for them to become more efficient.

Today, Mr Blair will use his keynote speech to attack the Tories for allowing the country to grow 'old and tired' and tell delegates that Britain must modernise or decline forever.

After a summer of internal rumblings over his leadership style, Mr Blair will try to lift the party beyond recent disputes and look towards a new Britain under Labour. He intends to warn the country that it is entering a new age but 'is simply not equipped to meet its challenges'.

He will say that 50 years after the war, and five years from the millennium, Britain is at a turning point in its history and must face up to the difficult choices that poses. He will say that it falls upon a revitalised Labour party to lead Britain 'back to the premier league of nations'.

Setting out policy initiatives on help for single parents, reduction of class sizes, reform of the national lottery, and new measures to boost medical science, he will say: 'I did not come into politics to transform my party; I came into politics to transform the country.'



Kevin Keegan teams up with Tony Blair at Brighton yesterday. But his past political links were with John Major, and extended to a kiss for Baroness Thatcher



## Keegan transfer rumour

By James Landale, Political Reporter

KEVIN KEEGAN, the soccer star friend to John Major and Baroness Thatcher, left delegates at Labour's party conference in Brighton, wondering yesterday whether he would transfer his political affections to Tony Blair.

But the Newcastle United manager and former England football captain, who had been invited to speak at a fringe meeting, swerved past questions with the same agility he showed on the pitch during his playing days.

'I am here in a totally non-political way,' he said. He

was there to talk about Euro-96, the European football championship being staged in Britain next year for the first time.

Yes, but did his presence in Brighton mean he would vote Labour?

'No, it doesn't... Don't be fooled by the red jacket.'

So he is not a Labour supporter? 'My politics are my private business,' he said. 'But my father, a miner, was a staunch Labour man.'

Did Mr Keegan like Tony Blair? 'I think he is a breath of fresh air,' he said. Mr Blair, keen to associate himself with such a popular working class hero, later played head tennis

with Mr Keegan for the television cameras. But plenty of other questions remained unanswered. Was it true that Mr Keegan had once expressed political ambitions? 'Years ago, I said foolishly that I wanted to be Prime Minister, but I have given that one up now.'

And did Mr Keegan, a man not known for shirking a tackle, really once embrace Mrs Thatcher? 'I did. I liked her. And did he kiss Mr Major when he presented the Prime Minister with a Newcastle players' shirt a few weeks ago? 'He wouldn't let me,' Mr Keegan said.

## University may sue over Oxford college claims

By John O'Leary and David Charter

OXFORD University is threatening legal action against a private college based just outside the city where 15 American students have walked out claiming they were misled into believing they were joining the ancient seat of learning.

The students, who paid up to \$21,000 (£13,290) in fees, are pursuing legal action of their own in the United States. Several spoke yesterday of their anger at discovering the college had no relationship with the university.

Warnborough College, which is licensed in Canada, recruits overseas students using literature emphasising its location. Its prospectus has an introduction headed 'The traditions of Oxford, Oxford University and Warnborough College', which says the institution 'maintains independence from the other colleges'.

The prospectus adds: 'Warnborough College is the leading gateway into Oxford for international students, and the only Oxford college that admits US students directly out of high school. Traditionally excluded from the University, US and other international students at the undergraduate level may now receive the same high level of education formerly reserved for British students.'

Only about half of the Americans who enrolled last month for degree courses are still at Warnborough. Ian Schuler, an 18-year-old from Pennsylvania, who intends to see out the year, said: 'We all thought we were coming to Oxford University. I was furious at the time, but I have borrowed \$9,000 and I have nowhere else to go.'

Mr Schuler said: 'We were told we would have use of the Bodleian Library and other university facilities. The li-

brary is completely inadequate and there are no laboratories, the bathrooms were disgusting when we got here, and people were sleeping three or four to a room with one dresser and a wardrobe. The conditions have improved, but there are problems transferring back to US universities.'

Paul Flather, the university's senior spokesman, said: 'We have had a number of difficulties with private colleges over the years, but this is by far the worst case. We have heard from a number of students who feel that they were badly misled.'

The university has written to Warnborough demanding its prospectus be withdrawn. Administrators are also planning to issue a warning on the Internet — where a number of students appear to have learnt of the college.

Mr Flather said Oxford was taking strenuous steps to stop private colleges passing themselves off as part of the university. 'We are anxious to protect students.'

Friends Brit Sherman, 17, and Edna McLain, 18, both travelled from Illinois to the college, leaving in disgust and heavily out of pocket after less than a week. Ms McLain said the college's representative in Seattle specifically told me I was going to Oxford University and I would be getting my degree from there.'

Ms McLain said she paid \$21,000 in student loans and \$1,000 of her own money, which she is trying to get back. She had hoped to study international law. Ms McLain claimed: 'It was on their course listings but on the second day the dean told me they did not have a law programme.'

Continue on page 2, col 4

## £2.8bn electricity bid

By Eric Reguly

SOUTHERN Electricity, the regional company that supplies a large tract of Southern England from Surrey to Hampshire, Gloucester and Wiltshire, agreed to recom-

mend a £2.8 billion bid from National Power to its shareholders.

National Power is the larger of the two privatised electricity generators and follows PowerGen which two weeks ago made an agreed bid for Midlands Electricity. The two bids recreate a link that was supposed to have been broken by the break-up of the old Central Electricity Generating Board before the industry was privatised in 1989.

National Power said it expects to recoup substantially more than £1 billion of its £2.8 billion outlay for Southern through the sale of 4,000 megawatts of generating capacity by the end of the year.

Business news, page 25

## Pregnant rider leads Britain to gold

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING, Britain's top three-day-eventer, led Britain to the team gold at the Open European Championships in Italy on Sunday without telling her team-mates that she was five months pregnant.

King, who also won the individual bronze medal, entrusted her secret only to her family, doctor and groom. She has astonished the equestrian world, which on Saturday, watched her tackle one of the sport's toughest courses.

King, 34, who married West Country farmer, David, earlier this year, said from Italy yesterday: 'If I had told the selectors they would probably have felt responsible and might have dissuaded me from going. I thought there



King: astonished equestrian world

might also be some bad press, so once my doctor and the team doctor had said he was happy for me to go ahead we just kept it to ourselves.'

One of the safest cross-country horses in the 11-year-old King William, he is not infallible. At the British Open Championships at Gatcombe in August, when King was about three months pregnant, she fell halfway round the course. 'We just said "whoops",' her mother, Jill Thompson, said from her Devon home yesterday. 'But she was quite all right.'

One of King's main concerns before the championships was fitting into her tailcoat for the dressage phase. The coat only just did up. As soon as she had finished her dressage she took the coat off and pulled out her shirt tails to cover her stomach. 'I just kept flapping the shirt about saying "Isn't it hot?" to everyone.'

Dr Michael Dooley, the

team doctor, learnt of King's condition only ten days ago — while the team made final preparations at Badminton. 'We all have to have a medical,' King said. 'So I told him as soon as I went in that I was pregnant, and quickly added that I felt fit and well.' She has timed the baby so she will be fit for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

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# Brown pays the price of Blair's eternal youth

PSYCHIATRISTS may know the answer. Why should a man—a clever man, a man with only one life to live—choose to take himself down to Brighton early on a wet Monday morning, stand in a hateful warehouse of a hall, tell a thousand grumpy people who do not care for him things that he does not wish to hear, then, after enduring a few seconds of their grudging applause, retire to a corridor where a dozen reporters wait to ask him why nobody likes him?

Perhaps in the middle of his speech yesterday the ques-

tion occurred to Gordon Brown, Labour's chief Treasury spokesman. It may explain why he suddenly attempted a pirouette and then another. Something had snapped.

The most spectacular pirouette occurred during Brown's joke about gravity.



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

the joke he came down again, but soon he was lapsing once more into twinkle-toes.

Is there, perhaps, beneath Gordon Brown's baleful and heavy-jowled exterior an Ariel trying to get out? Is the bobbing of some captive spirit a mute protest in ballet against the weight of political responsibility? The gravity train joke was passable, and there were other quite good

ones. The speech was fluent, and better delivered than usual. It even contained a handful of the shrilled rants that pass for plums in Opposition policy these days.

So why was the mood so flat, the man so leaden? Why does Gordon Brown seem to breathe a sort of despair, his features heavier and paler and wearier with every passing year? He is a young man.

Five years ago he looked as young as Tony Blair and as light on his feet. They were in many ways likenesses; yet the divergence between them now is striking.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray* the central figure seems forever young: his freshness, his beauty and his vigour astonish. But a price is being paid. His likeness is perishing. Upstairs in the attic his portrait in oils is ageing for him in the shadows. It sometimes seems that the beam of sunlight in which Tony Blair perpetually stands has been caught at a price: in the attic

his senior henchmen, the companions of his youth, look staler and heavier on their feet with every passing season. Blair stays lively and light, leeching the life from his own party.

Mr Brown was followed by Jack Cunningham, the industry spokesman. His speech plumbed new depths of banality. "Inequality in incomes in Britain is growing faster than in any other developed country except New Zealand" is a pretty dire opening to an address, but by the middle of Mr Cunningham's speech that sentence danced with life

and elegance by comparison with what had followed.

Delegates began to look up, startled that anything could be so dull. By the end, Mr Cunningham had astonished the conference. Nobody could believe it was possible to sustain such lifeless prose for so long. It became quite a talking point.

Kevin Keegan was better. Addressing a lunchtime gathering of Labour's sports enthusiasts, he brought the crowd to life. They called it a fringe meeting. One glance at Mr Keegan suggested it was more of a perm.

## Venables libel action settled

The England football coach Terry Venables and Tony Berry, deputy chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, yesterday settled a libel action brought over an allegation in Mr Venables' autobiography that Mr Berry had paid £20,000 for documents stolen from one of Mr Venables' companies. Mr Berry began proceedings after the *Mail* on Sunday serialised extracts from the book.

The publisher Michael Joseph Ltd and Associated Newspapers agreed to pay Mr Berry "substantial" undisclosed damages together with his legal costs. Together with Mr Venables, they expressed their sincere regret that Mr Berry was wrongly implicated. Afterwards Mr Berry said the damages and costs of the action taken together were well into six figures.

## Arms contract

The Army is to buy shells from Israel after the Ministry of Defence rejected a bid by a British company for the £50 million contract. The MoD said that the Israeli bid offered better value than that from Royal Ordnance. A spokesman said it had considered the impact on British industry and employment but still preferred the Israeli offer. The Israelis have pledged to involve British firms in the deal.

## Heseltine aide

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, has appointed a personal press officer. The move is seen as a further example of the increasing power of Mr Heseltine's office and his intention to exert his influence across the range of government. Michael Home, 51, a career diplomat who has also worked in the Downing Street press office, takes up the post next week, in time for the Conservative party conference.

## Hunt stepped up

Oxfordshire police have drafted in extra officers to track down the "obsessive or compulsive" killer of Vikki Thompson who was attacked while walking her dog in the Cotswold village of Ascott-under-Wychwood on August 12. Police said that there had been a spate of thefts of women's underwear from washing lines before the attack and that two bras found near the murder scene could be vital to the case.

## Police apology

David Coker, 36, who was beaten by police in his home after a domestic disturbance and suffered facial wounds and back injuries, has won £45,000 damages at Exeter County Court, and a public apology from John Evans, the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall police. PC Paul Mason, an officer called to the scene, committed suicide after giving evidence at the subsequent trial of a colleague.

## Probation fight

Probation officers are preparing to mount a legal challenge to plans by Michael Howard to scrap the requirement that new recruits have social work qualifications. The National Association of Probation Officers said it had consulted lawyers about seeking a judicial review. Officials said the Home Secretary's new system flew in the face of evidence underlining the importance of high quality training.

## Wren jailed

A Wren was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and dismissed from the Royal Navy yesterday after being found guilty of taking part in an attempt to steal a valuable painting from a warehouse. A court martial in Portsmouth was told that April Chandler, 21, from Dundee, smuggled the painting of a submarine, *C33 Entering the Creek*, by W. L. Wyllie, from the HMS Dolphin base, where she worked as a steward.

# Trimble injects new hope into peace process in Dublin

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE injected new life into the Northern Ireland peace process yesterday when he became the first leader of the Ulster Unionists in 30 years to hold talks in Dublin with the Irish Prime Minister.

In a move which would have been unthinkable under the leadership of James Molyneux, Mr Trimble hailed his discussions with John Bruton as "positive and constructive". The two leaders joked and chatted amiably as they posed for photographs before the lunch meeting.

At a joint press conference with Mr Bruton after the meeting Mr Trimble said: "Channels of communication

have been established and we have shown quite clearly that we are prepared to take the Unionist case to wherever it matters."

Mr Trimble made no secret of his differences with Mr Bruton and he insisted that the IRA must decommission its weapons before Sinn Féin could join full talks. He also spelled out his party's anger at Dublin's decision to postpone last month's Anglo-Irish summit.

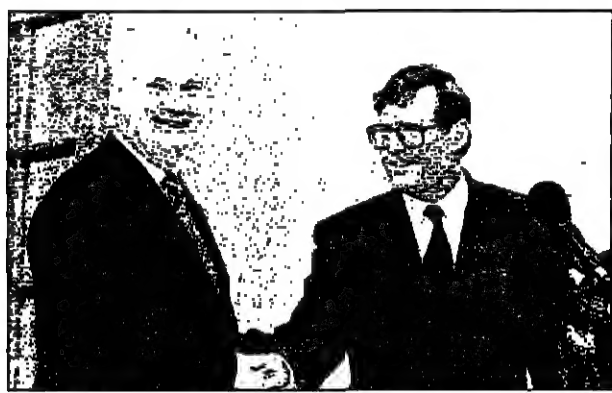
The MP for Upper Bann used diplomatic language at the press conference on the arms issue. But in an article in yesterday's *Irish Times* he said: "The reality is that Unionists, after 25 years of

bombing and shooting, do not trust IRA/Sinn Féin and will not sit down to discuss any constitutional proposals so long as they have the ability to leave the table and begin murdering again when they do not get their way."

Mr Bruton described yesterday's talks as an important step forward. He said: "The fact that more people are talking to other people than was the case a few months ago means that inexorably we are moving towards an all-inclusive dialogue... There is a calmer atmosphere now in regard to the discussions than there was a few weeks ago."

Dublin was encouraged when Mr Trimble said he would be willing to talk to Sinn Féin across the floor of a new Northern Ireland Assembly. Although Dublin will not agree to an Assembly before a settlement in the Province Irish officials regard Mr Trimble's proposal as an imaginative contribution.

Three border checkpoints in Northern Ireland are to be dismantled. Work to dismantle the Colmure Road and Letterkenney Road checkpoints on the outskirts of Londonderry and the Camels Hump checkpoint in Strabane will start on October 10.



The Irish Prime Minister John Bruton welcoming the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble

Leading article, page 17



Warnborough: Students believed the college, three miles outside Oxford, was part of Oxford University

## University may sue 'Oxford' college

Continued from page 1

Miss Sherman, who was hoping to study archaeology and anthropology, said the facilities were dilapidated and dirty. She has now enrolled at an American university. She added: "The information they gave us was really ambiguous."

The Attorney General's office in Washington State said it was suing the college's recruitment office in Seattle. A spokesman said the charges were that the college had "no current authorisation to operate as a degree-granting authority" and that

"it misled and deceived a substantial proportion of the public into believing Warnborough is a college in the Oxford University system."

The writ accuses Warnborough's American recruiters of "relying on the worldwide reputation of Oxford University to engage in acts and practices that have a tendency and capacity to deceive potential students into believing that Warnborough is an Oxford University college, when in truth and in fact it is not."

It adds: "Warnborough is not licensed or authorised to grant degrees by any

state in the United States, the District of Columbia, or the United Kingdom."

The attorney general of Washington State issued the writ against the college, its American admissions director, Mark Huck, and college president, Dr Brandon D. Tempest-Mogg.

The financial director, Jason Cronshaw, agreed the college's literature could be misinterpreted and said it would be changed next year.

The college, founded in 1973, is housed in 19th century Yaxcombe Hall, at Boars Hill, three miles out of Oxford.

## Judge halts Taylforth assault trial

BY TIM JONES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

A JUDGE has halted the forthcoming trial of Geoffrey Knights, who denies wounding his girlfriend, the *East-Enders* actress Gillian Taylforth. Mr Knights also denies an alternative charge of unlawfully wounding Miss Taylforth's driver, during an incident on Easter Sunday outside the couple's home in Whitstone, north London.

Judge Sanders is expected to spell out the reasons for his decision in a detailed judgment at Harrow Crown Court tomorrow. Mr Knights, 41, a consultant, had been sentenced to trial at the court on October 16 accused of causing Miss Taylforth's driver, Martin Davies, grievous bodily harm with intent.

There has been mounting concern about the effects of pre-trial publicity in a number of cases, notably last year's appeal by the Taylor sisters, Michelle and Lisa, whose convictions for the murder of Alison Shaughnessy were subsequently quashed. Lord Taylor of Gostforth, the Lord Chief Justice, and other senior judges have had talks with the Law Society on the issue.

## Widow's £33,000 mortgage payout

BY TIM JONES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

A WOMAN whose house was repossessed when her husband died has agreed a settlement of £33,493 with the building society and solicitors she blamed for making her homeless.

Patricia Gifford claimed the Halifax Building Society had failed to advise her to take out life assurance to cover the mortgage on her cottage. She also claimed against her solicitors, Stead & Stead, of Sudbury, Suffolk. In making the settlement at the High Court in London yesterday, the Halifax and Stead & Stead emphatically denied liability or negligence.

Her husband Roy, 60, died of a heart attack shortly after they bought their home in Great Henny, near Sudbury, for £22,540 from Braintree District Council. Mrs Gifford, a craft worker, was liable for the repayments.

In desperation, she mortgaged the property to another company and paid off the Halifax but was unable to keep up repayments and it was repossessed. Mrs Gifford,

who now lives with a friend in Enfield, north London, claimed that the Halifax never told the couple they needed life assurance to cover the mortgage. The couple, who had eight children, were asked about their health and assumed the Halifax would arrange cover and add premiums to the monthly repayments.

The Gifford case highlights the responsibilities owed by banks and building societies to borrowers. A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said: "A lender must give correct information, on which borrowers may base a decision. It is the lender's duty to carry out borrowers' instructions correctly."

The Gifford case comes against a background of complaints about the advice given by lenders. Earlier this month the High Court awarded damages of £77,529 to Julia Verity and Richard Spindler, who had relied on the advice of a Lloyds Bank manager when making a property investment.

## Boycotted French apples dumped on British market

BY EDWARD GORMAN

APPLE-GROWERS claim that they could be driven out of business by low-priced French apples being dumped on the British market from countries boycotting French produce because of nuclear tests in the Pacific.

A boycott of French produce in British restaurants and supermarkets continues in the wake of the latest test at the weekend, though its overall impact is patchy.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of the English Fruit Company, which represents more than half of English apple sales, said that tons of French apples originally intended for Germany and Scandinavia were flooding the market and forcing prices down sharply. "Our market is

being destabilised by a flood of French apples at ridiculously low prices which don't even cover the cost of production."

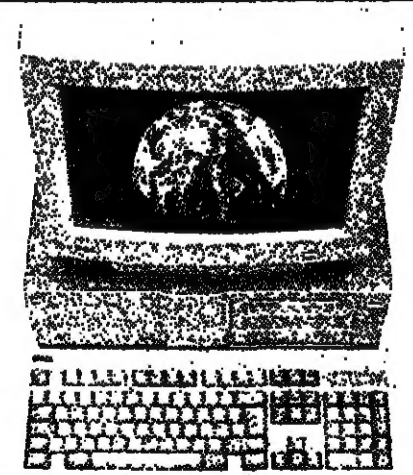
He added that unlike some consumers on the Continent, shoppers in Britain were being attracted by golden delicious apples at reduced prices in preference to more expensive English ones. "Unfortunately, customers over here just see French apples as good value for money. They don't realise that if this goes on much longer we could see half the apples growers in this country go out of business."

In London restaurants, the boycott of French food and wines has gathered impetus after the latest nuclear explosion. The Atlantic Bar & Grill in Piccadilly has been raising up to £2,000 a week from diners who are invited to pay a £5

surcharge on bottles of French wine and champagne and £1 on a glass of wine. The proceeds are going to a charity involved in environmental and community work in Tahiti.

Nuclear test, page 13

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# Company boss 'made cast-off mistresses redundant'

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

TWO women managers who had an affair with their married boss and who were both made redundant when the affair ended are taking him to an industrial tribunal.

Jennifer McMillan and Ruth Donnachie, from Ardrossan, Strathclyde, are both claiming constructive dismissal. They had a relationship with Michael Dale, vice-president and general manager of Saztec Europe, part of an American data processing company, based in Ardrossan. Miss Donnachie's sister, who worked for the company, was also made redundant.

An industrial tribunal in Glasgow heard that Mr Dale struck up a relationship with each of the women in turn. Miss Donnachie, 29, production manager, designated for Saztec, told how her affair was decorated at the company's ex-

pense and how she was given 5,000 shares for her work in helping to make the company profitable. But she also said that her boss lost his temper and swore at her when she told him she was seeing someone else.

"He said: 'I was an evil bitch, that I was pure poison and that I would regret everything. He said he was going to hurt me more than I ever knew.'"

Miss Donnachie said she replied that there was nothing he could do apart from sacking her and was told by Mr Dale: "I can do more than that." A week later Miss Donnachie's sister, who was the company's personnel manager, was sacked.

Miss Donnachie said the relationship began while she and Mr Dale were in the Philippines on a business trip in July 1992 and were staying in the same hotel.



Jennifer McMillan, left, and Ruth Donnachie, who both had an affair with Michael Dale

She said that she did not want the affair to continue on her return to Scotland but that it carried on until March 1994 when she told Mr Dale she was seeing someone else. She was made redundant

some weeks later and said that although her selection for redundancy was "a farce", she did not contest it at the time as she would have left the company within months. "I just wanted to get

away," she said. Mr Dale, who admitted the affairs with both women but told the tribunal they were "howling mistakes", said he became intimate with Mrs McMillan when Miss Donnachie

left. He said he still missed Miss Donnachie, whose company car was given to Mrs McMillan, a senior supervisor, when she was made redundant.

Mr Dale said of his relationship with Mrs McMillan: "Like a lot of relationships it went sour. We all make mistakes and I made two howling mistakes."

He said the company's president, Guy Abernathy, told him he had been "very stupid". "He warned me that I was not to do it again."

He denied that he had anything to do with the departure of Mrs McMillan but admitted having a hand in the redundancy of both Miss Donnachie and her sister, whom he said were "surplus to requirements".

Mrs McMillan said that when she returned to work after being ill with stress following the end of her affair with Mr Dale, she felt rejected and isolated. She said: "I

felt very humiliated." When she went back to work on October 10, 1994, she had no desk or office, her personal belongings were missing and she faced a drop in salary. When she asked Ann Barlow, the company's general manager, what was happening she was told: "Jeany, I do not have time for this. I have too many other problems."

Mrs McMillan said: "I was senior supervisor, then suddenly I was back on the shop floor. It took me seven and a half years to work my way up and I worked very hard to get there." She said that no reason had been given by Mr Dale for their affair coming to an end.

Mr Dale was deputy general manager of Saztec Europe when the affairs took place, but has since been promoted. He is married with two daughters and lives in Yateley, Hampshire. The tribunal will reconvene next month.

## Man who had irreversible vasectomy challenges maintenance claim

### Test-tube daughter is not legally mine, father tells CSA

By Dominic Kennedy

A MAN whose daughter was conceived in a test tube using donor sperm is challenging a maintenance claim by the Child Support Agency.

Michael Bloor, 46, who registered the birth of Stephanie when she was three days old, giving her name as the father, is being pursued for maintenance of £102 a week. The CSA will have to take Mr Bloor to court to establish if Stephanie, 10, is legally his daughter, because she was born before the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990.

Mr Bloor and his former wife Sylvia, 42, were married in July 1984. Both had been married previously and Mr Bloor already had a son. Mr Bloor, a father of five, had undergone an irreversible vasectomy.

The couple visited a clinic for artificial insemination using anonymous donor sperm. Stephanie was born in July 1985 at All Saints Hospital in Chatham, Kent. In October 1993 the couple parted and Mr Bloor began paying £120 a week voluntary maintenance. He later reduced payments to £80 and stopped paying last November.

Mrs Bloor, a part-time warden in an old people's home, needed family credit of £41 a week to top up her earnings.



Mrs Bloor explained facts of life to Stephanie

The CSA made an interim assessment saying Mr Bloor, an installations manager for a window company, should pay £102 a week if he was deemed to be Stephanie's father.

The couple went to Hastings County Court last May for a ruling on the apportionment of their detached home near Hastings, East Sussex, where Mrs Bloor lives with Stephanie. In an affidavit Mr Bloor said: "Although there are two children of the family, Brendan Bloor, who is 16, and Stephanie Bloor, who is nine, I am not the natural father of either child. Stephanie was conceived by means of artificial insemination. I had an irreversible vasectomy ap-

proximately 17 years ago."

He added: "I agree that the Child Support Agency made an interim assessment. However, as I am not Stephanie's biological parent, the agency should not have any jurisdiction and I understand that the agency has now approached the petitioner for her consent for DNA testing."

The CSA confirmed that children born from artificial insemination by anonymous donors at registered clinics were treated as the off-spring of the mother's husband or partner. The rules deciding that a man who signs a fertility clinic consent form is legally the father were only introduced by the 1990 Act.

Mrs Bloor said yesterday: "We knew since May the reason why he was disputing, I didn't really know how to tell Stephanie. I thought it best not to tell her while she was at school, so I waited until the beginning of her holidays. 'I sat down' and told her briefly how children are conceived. The next day I told her she ought to know how she was conceived. I explained that we had to use somebody else's sperm because her dad had had an operation."

"Her first reaction was, 'He is not my real dad'. I said, 'No, but he is your dad'. Although we didn't use his sperm, he sees himself as her dad. She sees him as her dad. Stephanie has taken it all very well. I was surprised."



Bloor with Stephanie at one week. "He sees himself as her dad," his ex-wife said

anie has taken it all very well. I was surprised."

Mrs Bloor is adamant that her former husband should support Stephanie. "I feel he is legally responsible," she said.

"To all intents and purposes, having Stephanie was something we both talked about and something we agreed on." Mr Bloor was believed to be abroad last night.

## Baroness brands case a rotten cause

By Dominic Kennedy

BARONESS WARNOCK, who chaired the inquiry into human fertilisation and embryology which reported in 1984, said cases such as the Bloors showed that artificial insemination by anonymous donors was "an absolutely rotten cause", and only marginally more desirable than surrogacy.

"There is everything to be said against it," she said. "The lack of balance between the parents is almost bound to tell even if a

disaster like this does not happen." But she said that there was no question of bringing in legislation.

Baroness Warnock said that the couple should have told their child from an early age that she had been produced by artificial insemination, in the same way that adoptive parents are recommended to let their children know where they come from. "It is appalling wrong to bring somebody up under a misapprehension."

She said she was convinced that the

husband would have to pay for the child's upkeep. "I don't think he has got a leg to stand on. I suppose he is arguing the present law doesn't affect him, like a man refusing to support his adopted child if a marriage breaks up. I don't think anyone would think that morally justifiable. The fact that he consented and signed the birth certificate meant that he could not get away with it and his biological distance from the child has nothing to do with it, just as it wouldn't in the case of adoption."

## Football officials 'lived like fat cats'

By a Staff Reporter

BRIAN CLOUGH'S Nottingham Forest Football Club was accused of "a combination of corruption and dishonesty" yesterday by a lawyer defending its former ticket manager. "Any cat could get fat," he said.

Club officials were "living lives they could not afford" having lavish holidays and expensive meals, said Jonathan Teare, representing Andrew Plumb, 31. Mr Teare also accused the club of failing to disclose its accounts after Plumb plundered an estimated £70,000 from their funds.

Plumb, of Aysworth, Nottinghamshire, admitted 16 charges of theft and false accounting between June 1991 and November 1992 and was jailed for two years. Keith Jackson, for the prosecution, told Nottingham Crown Court that the "balloon went up" while Plumb and his wife were "sunbathing themselves in Thailand" in September 1993.

Tottenham Hotspur became suspicious after a £20,000 cheque sent by them to Nottingham Forest was not accounted for. Plumb protested his innocence on a Granada Television World In Action programme screened in September 1993, a few days before

the fraud squad was called in. Mr Jackson said Plumb told the programme that he had been covering up for Mr Clough, alleging that the former Forest manager had received 2,000 tickets for the 1992 Rumbelows Cup Final between Forest and Manchester United.

Plumb claimed Mr Clough sold those tickets on the black market and banked the proceeds. "These allegations were investigated and found to be untrue," Mr Jackson said. "Mr Clough can be shown to have paid for the tickets."

But Mr Teare claimed that was "not strictly correct", and added: "The matter has been investigated. Mr Clough has denied it, but he has never sued the World In Action programme. Mr Plumb told the programme that Mr Clough had demanded 19,000 tickets for the Rumbelows final. It is believed that they were sold on the black market."

"Mr Clough has denied it but it is a fact that Manchester United fans were able to buy tickets in the centre of the Nottingham Forest-allocated seats. Mr Clough, the flamboyant and extrovert manager at the time, was behaving extremely dishonestly."

## Policeman clung to woman's car

By Richard Duce

A RETIRED police chief clung to the bonnet of his neighbour's car as she drove at speeds of up to 50mph, a court was told yesterday. Michael Somerton, 57, a former superintendent, held onto the windscreen wipers as Lorna Greinel drove three miles before stopping, it was alleged.

Mr Somerton told Luton Crown Court that as Mrs Greinel, 41, sped through the countryside he could hear her saying: "You silly man, you silly man, it's a pity it's not raining." Mrs Greinel's three children, aged four, five and 14 months, were said to have been in the back seat but Mr Somerton did not notice them until the vehicle eventually came to a halt.

The court was told that the neighbours, of Eversholt, Bedfordshire, had been involved in a protracted dispute which boiled over when Mr Somerton attempted to intervene in a dispute in August last year between Mrs Greinel and a woman who rented land from her to keep horses.

As the argument developed, he ran across to stop his wife being hit by Mrs Greinel's car, was struck by it and fell across the bonnet. "My back

was towards the car and my feet were towards the front. I was able to sit up straight put my hands back and grasp the windscreen wipers."

Mr Somerton, who was wearing just a T-shirt and shorts, said that when the car went across a bridge over the M1 he thought: "If she takes me on that, I've had it."

The jury was told that Mr Somerton and Mrs Greinel, who denies dangerous driving, had known each other for more than ten years and first met when she served as a special constable under his command in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, in 1982.

In court he claimed that she had been dismissed as a constable and since then had tried to make his life a misery. No reason for the dismissal was given to the court.

Lynne Tayton, for the defence, suggested that Mr Somerton had jumped onto the car bonnet to stop Mrs Greinel driving off. Miss Tayton said: "Miss Greinel said: 'If you don't get off I am going to take you to the police station.' And you said 'I am the police.'"

Mr Somerton replied: "That is a total untruth."

The trial continues.

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Earth Centre in Yorkshire and revitalised Portsmouth Harbour gain lottery grants

## Green theme park wins £50m millennium cash

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
AND NICK NUTTALL

A VISIONARY environmental theme park in Yorkshire and a futuristic 540ft observation tower in Portsmouth Harbour are the first landmark projects to receive National Lottery money from the Millennium Commission.

The two schemes take the lion's share of £109 million being handed out to 54 projects in the Commission's second round of grants, announced yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

Mrs Bottomley, who also chairs the commission, said that the projects "share a clear emphasis on the environment, on conservation and on providing new public access to the world around us for present and future generations".

The biggest award, £50 million, goes towards the construction of the Earth Centre, an educational and environmental theme park near Doncaster, in South Yorkshire. Its supporters claim it will help make Britain a world leader in environmentally friendly agriculture, architecture, industry, energy generation and transport. The project also aims to regenerate the depressed mining community by spawning environmental industries, such as pollution control firms, and will create 800 jobs.

Mrs Bottomley said it would be "the largest education com-



Virginia Bottomley with Max, an eagle owl, at London Zoo, which received a £2.2 million grant

plex built in the UK since the Victorian museums of South Kensington". The £112 million scheme, on 142 hectares in Conistone, aims to attract between 13 million and 25 million visitors by the turn of the century and to show how a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous world can be achieved.

Some of its ideas, including a plan for Britain's first organic fish farm which will ban antibiotics and pesticides and which will reuse wastes as fertiliser, have been devised by unemployed former miners.

At the heart of the centre, whose president is Sir Crispin Tickell, one of the Prime Minister's advisers on environmental issues and a former British permanent representa-

tive to the United Nations, will be three pavilions each addressing environmental themes of the 21st century.

The Science and Industry pavilion will demonstrate the latest developments in environmentally friendly industry, manufacturing, business and scientific research.

The Ark, designed as a giant butterfly, will use the latest multimedia, computer and theme park technology to show how man is affecting the planet and what can be done to improve it. The Sustainable Futures centre will demonstrate 2,000 case studies of companies and communities that have adapted to be more environmentally sensitive.

An £86 million scheme for the redevelopment of Ports-

mouth Harbour, which will provide public access to coastal land previously occupied by the Royal Navy, receives £40 million from the Commission.

Jennifer Page, the Commission's chief executive, said that the centrepiece, a 540ft tower visible from far out in the Channel, might not be ready by the start of the year 2000 but walkways around the harbour should be. The tower's designs have been sent to the Royal Fine Art Commission for consultation and further work.

The harbour scheme, a joint venture between local councils in the Portsmouth and Gosport area and private enterprise, also includes plans for a giant jet fountain in the middle of the harbour, lit by lasers, and the construction of a new building to house the hull of the Mary Rose, which was part of Henry VIII's navy.

The commission also announced a grant of £5.75 million towards the creation of a Millennium Forest for Scotland. The Trans-Pennine Trail, a 446 mile route for walkers and cyclists stretching from Merseyside to Humberside, received £5.33 million. The Welsh Highland Railway Restoration project received £4.3 million towards the restoration of a rail link between Porthmadog and Caernarfon in Wales. London Zoo was awarded £2.2 million for the construction of a conservation education centre.



Jonathan Smales, of the Earth Centre, with a model of the Millennium Ark

## Gunmen jailed for part in drug war

Two gunmen involved in a violent drugs war in the Strathclyde town of Paisley were jailed yesterday. John McLaughlin, 27, was jailed for 12 years for attempted murder. He shot a man in the head at close range but the man survived. Gerard McTavish, 32, was jailed for six years for shooting a man in the leg.

Paisley has been the scene of gang warfare over the supply of the drug temazepam. Police have cracked down after a number of violent crimes.

## Custody death

A 33-year-old man died while in police custody. Francis Nicholas, of Liverpool, was arrested on Sunday. He was found unconscious early yesterday and certified dead at hospital. An inquiry has been started.

## Bomb memorial

A memorial to the 21 people killed by the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974 will be erected at St Philip's Cathedral in the city after church leaders withdrew their objections to victims' names being included.

## Dockers sacked

Three hundred dockers in Liverpool were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line in support of 80 dockers who had lost their jobs with another company. New contracts have been sent to about 200 of the sacked workers.

## Father in court

Andrew Cartwright, 40, appeared before magistrates in Dudley, West Midlands, charged with the murder of his daughter Emma, 14, whose body was found at her home in Kingswinford, on Saturday.

## Verdi goes pop

Elton John and Sir Tim Rice are to write a modern musical version of Verdi's opera *Aida* for Walt Disney. John told BBC Radio 1 the show would be staged first, then made into an animated feature if it was successful.

□ Mr C H Bailey (report, September 27) is a land agent acting for a local landowner, and has no connection with Whinfield Forest Action Group.

□ Endlike school, Humberside, is the first primary school to achieve Investor in People status (article, September 27).

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## Satellite advances laser technology

BY NICK NUTTALL

A REVOLUTIONARY satellite dubbed the "superhighway in the sky" will be unveiled today by the European Space Agency.

The craft will test laser beams to communicate with Earth and with other spacecraft. It is expected to transform global telecommunications and computer links. The emerging telecommunications networks rely on fibre-optic cables. These use light to beam information, including telephone calls, data and images, around the world.

Among the weak points in these growing networks are the satellite links. Satellites use radio links, which are unlikely to be able to cope with the impending increase in transmissions. Satellites are also unable to relay information between each other.

This adds to the communications bottleneck: signals have to be beamed between

space and Earth to reach the other side of the world.

Some companies and organisations, such as national meteorological offices and those using space for environmental monitoring are often forced to beam down information to an inconveniently distant location. They then have to wait weeks for a tape to arrive. With satellites able to communicate with each other in seconds by laser, the information could be handed on and beamed down to the right country almost instantaneously.

The craft, *Artemis*, being unveiled at the Telecom '95 fair in Geneva, has a device called Silex which can beam or receive laser light. British engineers at Matra Marconi Space in Portsmouth and the research company Siris in Chislehurst, southeast London, are developing some of the technologies. *Artemis* is scheduled for launch in 1998.



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## Film convicts traveller of attack on police car

# TV evidence sends poll tax rioter to jail five years on

BY LIN JENKINS

A POLL tax rioter who was filmed by television cameras hurling a pole through the window of a police car during the Trafalgar Square riots was jailed for two years and ten months yesterday, five and a half years after the event.

Nicholas Jeffries, a New Age traveller, went on the run after his attack was broadcast around the world, but was finally caught when he tried to dodge a train fare while hiding in Amsterdam. Yesterday Jeffries, father of a five-year-old son, appeared at the Old Bailey for what Mr Justice Hooper called his "completely and utterly unjustified" attack with a pole from a protest banner.

BBC and ITN camera footage of Trafalgar Square on March 31, 1990, was played to the court, showing Jeffries running at a British Transport Police car and hurling the pole like a javelin through the driver's window. PC Robert Huntley, who was driving,

was showered with glass and received a cut nose and forehead but escaped serious injury. After the case he said: "The vehicle was completely unprotected. It was only afterwards when I saw it on video that I realised the enormity of what happened."

The judge said: "It was a serious and prolonged attack which could not be justified by anything the defendant thought he saw shortly before he started the attack."

Jonathan Laidlaw, for the prosecution, said Jeffries attacked five police vehicles, battering at the windows with the pole and a dustbin lid and bashing one with a metal crash barrier while officers inside heard shouts of "Kill them". That day thousands of people had demonstrated their concern about the introduction of the community charge.

"Among many thousands of peaceful demonstrators was a hard core, intent on using the protest for attacks on police

and property," he said. "A number of police officers on duty described the incidents as the most frightening of their careers. They believed that members of the crowd were intent on causing them serious harm and there were times where they feared for their lives."

Jeffries, of no fixed address, admitted violent disorder and causing actual bodily harm to PC Huntley. Pleas of not guilty to rioting and causing grievous bodily harm were accepted by the prosecution.

Mr Laidlaw said the car was attacked as PC Huntley reversed to escape the violence. "It is the most serious of the events captured on film."

Jeffries has convictions for smuggling amphetamines, theft, motoring offences and possession of drugs. He had absconded from a 15-month jail term at Shepton Mallet prison while attending a job interview in June 1989.

After he was identified in

press photographs of the riot he fled the country and spent some time in Sweden before settling in Holland with his girlfriend, Sharon, and son, Finn.

Dexter Dias, representing Jeffries, said he acted only after one of the police personnel carriers drove through the crowd at about 20mph and knocked over a demonstrator. "He accepts that he over-reacted."

Jeffries was frustrated that the police van had not moved. "Because he thought they were causing a danger he took up a variety of items that he used to hit the side of the vans with considerable force," Mr Dias said.

The judge sentenced Jeffries to two years on the charge of violent disorder and ten months for the assault, to run consecutively. That sentence was reduced by eight months because of the four months he had already served in Holland.



Nicholas Jeffries as he was pictured on television in Trafalgar Square in 1990

## Strangled girl may have led double life

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE strangled and decomposed body found on the West Yorkshire moors at the weekend was that of a South African schoolgirl who may have led a double life.

The body of Nobantu Zani, 15, who lived in Bradford and was known to friends as Mandy, was found near Druridge, Bingley, by a man walking his dog. Police said she had been strangled with her own scarf but there was no sign of a struggle. Mandy, who attended Buttershaw high school, Bradford, was found in a natural depression, her body covered by branches.

She was last seen in Bradford on September 11 waiting to catch a bus to Halifax. Police said Mandy's family had not reported her missing because they thought she was staying with a friend.

Detective Superintendent Tony Whittle said: "In early September we don't know where she was living. It may be she was living a double life but there is no evidence to suggest she was a prostitute."

## Diabetics will be losers as charities battle in court

BY MICHAEL HORNBELL

TWO charities for diabetes sufferers were locked in a legal battle yesterday that could end in a substantial financial drain on the cause they both represent.

At the start of the High Court case, which could last two weeks, Mr Justice Walker expressed dismay that "one way or another", the legal costs would have to be paid out of charitable funds.

The British Diabetic Association (BDA), which was founded in 1934 by the diabetic novelist H.G. Wells, is in dispute with its breakaway rival, the Diabetic Society, formed in 1990. Together they support Britain's one million diabetics. At issue is an annual income worth £9 million in collections, gifts and bequests.

The BDA is accusing its fledgling rival of passing itself off as being the same as, or connected, with the association. In the unusual case, which could lead to legal costs of up to £100,000, the BDA is seeking an injunction to prevent the alleged passing off and an inquiry into what financial damage it might have suffered.

Mr Justice Walker was told that lawyers had made every effort to resolve the dispute, but to no avail. The BDA,



H.G. Wells: diabetic who founded the BDA

which employs 67 staff at its London headquarters and has 450 branches throughout Britain, says that the society is causing confusion among members of the public, particularly people who want to leave money to diabetic welfare and research.

The BDA relies on bequests as a primary means of income and has produced evidence in the form of wills to show that people have used a variety of titles to indicate that the BDA was the intended beneficiary of sums ranging from £100 to £1.3 million.

The association says it is also popularly known as "the diabetic society" and has throughout its history received legacies and gifts under that and similar names which were intended for it.

The difficulty has been compounded because its local branches have come to be known as the "diabetic society", particularly among the elderly, and because until 1954 the BDA was called the Diabetic Association.

The Diabetic Society was incorporated in October, 1990, by Arthur Bennett, a former regional representative of the BDA, and Gillian Atkin. Its income is said to be comparatively tiny but the BDA is concerned that money intended for the senior body, even though wrongly attributed, could increasingly find its way into the funds of its rival.

The judge said it seemed "very regrettable that so much money is being spent on one charity fighting another".

It is understood that the BDA, embarrassed by having to spend heavily on legal costs from its charitable income, has raised with the Charity Commission the possibility of setting up a binding arbitration scheme to which charities in dispute could apply in future.

The hearing continues today.

## Journalists duped top clothes shops

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO journalists kitted themselves out in an array of the latest fashions by posing as television producers, a court was told yesterday. Gillian Hunter, 30, claimed she needed the £4,000 worth of gentlemen's jackets, ladies suits and footwear to make a pilot programme for the BBC's *Clothes Show* series.

Her 29-year-old boyfriend, Quilliam Potter, who was caught wearing some of the clothes, also tried a similar fraud on a number of leading computer manufacturers in a bid to obtain £20,000 worth of equipment. Southwark Crown Court was told.

Martyn Bowyer, for the prosecution, said the pair had sent a string of convincing letters and faxes to their victims, all but one of whom swallowed their lies. He told the court that Potter, a news correspondent for Westcountry Television, and Hunter, a freelance journalist

for BBC Radio Bristol, were caught after a quick-witted public relations woman checked their story.

Police were alerted and arranged for a dummy computer delivery to be made to the couple's home in Exeter in August last year. When they came to the door, Potter was wearing a pair of Timberland boots and Hunter a ladies suit from another swindle. Mr Bowyer told the court that officers investigating the attempted computer fraud found top quality clothing in the couple's bedroom. Hunter had ordered the clothes from nine separate clothing chains, including Next, Dorothy Perkins and Wallis.

The pair, who admitted six charges of attempting to obtain goods by deception and nine counts of dishonestly obtaining goods, were released on bail pending sentencing at Southwark Crown Court on November 3.

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# Skilful performance marks a return to authoritative form

Gordon Brown has suffered during his three years as Shadow Chancellor from the need to appear financially respectable. His desire to shed Labour's "tax and spend" image may have reassured the City, but it has not enthused Labour activists. He has seemed too safety-first, too negative. They have wondered what the difference would be between a Clarke and a Brown chancellorship.

Yesterday, he sought to escape from that trap: to be both fiscally responsible and to show where a Labour government could make a real difference. Many questions have been left open about how

these aims can be reconciled over the long term. But it was a skilful performance, without last year's evasions. His stability plan addressed the moral and political, as well as the economic case, for fighting inflation. His message was blunt: "We will not build the new Jerusalem on a mountain of debt." He warned that, under a Labour government, there would be "no blank cheques, no short cuts and no pay explosions" and "no billions poured down the black hole of unemployment and no shopping lists of irresponsible commitments".

His other main point was to suggest where immediate action

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

could be taken to break the logjam of passivity over youth unemployment. More important than the details of the plan — financed by part of the proceeds from a one-off tax on privatised utilities — was the impression he sought to convey that something can be done. The Tory response that governments cannot create jobs, only businesses can, was fabulous. As for the new director-general of the CBI, who disagrees with the utilities tax, commented yesterday that youth unemployment "will not be

solved by the natural forces of economic recovery alone". There is, he said, a role for government to play.

The present Government already accepts the case for tax rebates and for encouraging employers to take on people and for reducing the disincentives on the unemployed themselves. Mr Brown's proposals are in the same direction. He emphasised that, along with these new opportunities, "we will expect every young person to accept their responsibility to train or learn". There are several loose ends. Such subsidies always have risks: in the displacement of other, older workers and in not providing permanent

employment. Mr Brown was being over-ambitious in claiming that his plan "is nothing less than to abolish youth unemployment". His proposals are best seen as an emergency package rather than as a lasting answer.

Moreover, the plan is by definition limited since the cost — £1 billion in the first year — is to be financed by the windfall levy on the utilities. The Tories were yesterday joined by left-wing MPs such as Alan Simpson in arguing that such a one-off tax does not answer Labour's tax and spending dilemma. Mr Brown accepts that overall public borrowing constraints are tight. His proposals are intended to

jump-start the process of reducing youth and long-term unemployment, so that the savings from a sustained cut in spending on unemployment can, in time, be used to finance improved public services. Mr Brown has sought to sidestep the debate over the likely cuts in income tax in the November Budget by proposing a reduction in VAT on fuel from 8 per cent to the 5 per cent minimum allowed under European rules. This is a neat tactic intended to highlight the party divide on tax, though it will still leave Labour with awkward choices over income tax cuts.

Mr Brown is a mercurial figure:

at his best, as yesterday, a formidable politician. Yet he can also be a prickly and wary colleague. He has had an uneasy 18 months' "soundbite" for his caution and "time to come to terms with the eclipse of his leadership ambitions last year. But he has achieved notable successes — in the Government and in the VAT last December and in the campaign against the rewards for executives of privatised utilities. He is now back on his most authoritative form. He will be crucial to the success of any Labour government.

PETER RIDDELL

## Brown's austerity balanced by pledge of jobs for young

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Shadow Chancellor yesterday ruled out a "pay explosion" under a Labour government and reassured the City with a promise of tight curbs on spending and inflation.

"We will not build a new Jerusalem on a mountain of debt," Gordon Brown declared in his speech to the Labour conference in Brighton, damping union hopes of instant wage rises. But Mr Brown balanced his austere fiscal stance with an audacious pledge to end youth unemployment.

He confirmed that the proceeds of a £1 billion windfall tax on the excess profits of the privatised utilities would be used to fund work for 600,000 people aged 18-24. Long-term unemployed among the 25-plus age group would be helped by a separate £100 million package.

Mr Brown stepped up his campaign to bury Labour's reputation as the high-tax party by demanding a cut in VAT on domestic fuel. To try to shore up Labour's position in the face of a tax-cutting Budget next month, he challenged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to reduce VAT on gas and electricity bills from 8 per cent to 5 per cent, at a cost of £480 million.

Despite genuflecting to the traditional Labour goal of full employment and condemning



the "greed and inefficiency" of the Conservatives, Mr Brown was given a lukewarm reception by delegates hoping for a more expansionist message. But there was strong backing from union chiefs and activists for his emphasis on helping the jobless.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, said: "Full employment should be the first commitment in our manifesto — page one, line one, the centrepiece of our economic policy."

Joan Ryan, prospective parliamentary candidate for Enfield North, said that creating jobs had to be a first priority of a Labour government.

In a remark that could have come from a Tory Chancellor, Mr Brown said Labour did not abhor inflation for fear of upsetting the markets. Inflation was bad because those on

fixed incomes suffered most at its hands. "No one should doubt that the war against inflation is a Labour war," he said. "I want our Labour government remembered not as a big spender but a wise spender."

"There will be no stop-go, no inflationary booms, no misreading the figures, no quick fixes, no blank cheques, no short cuts and no pay explosions. Just as there will be no grotesque experiments like the poll tax, no car-bus sales of national treasures, no billions poured down the black hole of unemployment and no shopping lists of irresponsible commitments."

Instead, Mr Brown promised long-term investment, social justice, action to tackle unemployment and "an economic policy run in the interests not of a privileged few but of the whole community."

The unemployed — more than two million families without work — were a millstone hung around the country's neck by the Tories, costing billions and blocking the path to economic growth and a fair society. "Thatcher's children" had become a betrayed generation of rootless and jobless young people, forgotten by John Major.

"These young people don't want opportunities to beg. They do need opportunities to work," he said. "It is time to right the wrongs of the last 16 years — time for a fresh start for a forgotten and betrayed generation. No young person should spend years without a job and under Labour no young person will. Our plan is nothing less than to abolish youth unemployment."

As disclosed yesterday, the £25 billion that Labour plans



to raise from a one-off windfall tax would be spent on tax rebates for employers who took on under-25s who had been out of work for six months. Mr Brown would spend £1 billion in the first year, reducing to £400 million in the second year of a programme to be phased over the five years of a Parliament.

Delegates at the conference

rejected a resolution calling for the renationalisation of the privatised utilities.

They backed the leadership after Jack Cunningham, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, promised tighter regulation of former state-owned firms, with automatic rebates to customers and price cuts when profits were excessive.

## Activists reject rigid minimum wage formula

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday took a major step towards further modernisation of the party when its conference agreed a new way of setting a national minimum wage.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who will address the conference today, was said last night to regard the conference's decisive rejection of a rigid pay formula for setting a national minimum as being of the "utmost significance".

Party leaders were delighted at securing what only a few weeks ago seemed unobtainable. They wanted a new low-pay commission to recommend a national minimum to a Labour government, the abolition of the policy of setting it by an earnings-linked formula and no specific figure set in advance of the general election. Last night they had secured all three.

They were particularly ebullient that the move backed by leftwingers and some trade unions to press for a specific hourly level of £4.15 was withdrawn before it was put to a conference vote, giving Mr Blair and the leadership a clean sweep on the issue.

Much credit was given to Harriet Harman, Labour's employment spokeswoman, who has insisted that the means of setting a minimum wage could be modernised without Labour abandoning the principle of a minimum or seeing an outburst of bitter infighting. After the confer-

ence debate she said: "This is a transforming decision, a huge signal. It shows we have moved from the vested interests of one side of industry to partnership."

Instead of a formula fixing the national minimum by linking it to half of male median earnings, if Labour won the election employers and unions would come together on the commission to recommend a minimum. Before then, Labour would set up a committee — to which employers would give evidence — to prepare the ground for the introduction of a national minimum by a Labour government. This committee would draw up a detailed Bill that could be put to Parliament straight away.

Ms Harman told the conference: "The low-pay commission is about taking the national minimum wage beyond a campaigning issue for Labour in opposition and making it a practical policy for Labour in government."

The Labour leadership secured its clean sweep when the Edinburgh constituency party agreed to remit its resolution calling for a £4.15 minimum. The move was a relief to union leaders, who had been split over whether to support the motion, which contained a technical error. Leftwingers admitted having made a mistake that had improved the leadership's prospects of success.

## Hattersley criticises education policy

By NICHOLAS WOOD

ROY HATTERSLEY warned the Labour leadership last night of a bumpy ride tomorrow over its plans for a modified form of grant-maintained schools.

The party's former deputy leader said that plans to create "foundation schools" — self-governing schools with two local authority governors — and "community schools" struck at the heart of the

comprehensive principle and that mainstream Labour members had been offended by the policy document drawn up by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary. A resolution from Harborough Constituency Labour Party urges delegates to reject the proposals.

"Different sorts of schools means a hierarchy of schools. The idea of different but equal is a sentimental myth," Mr Hattersley told a Socialist Educational

Association fringe meeting at the Brighton conference. Mr Hattersley said Mr Blunkett should make concessions: the fate of a grammar school should be decided by all local parents, not just those of the pupils; the party should oppose "social selection" — schools interviewing prospective pupils and parents; and the promise of "equitable funding" should be replaced by a pledge of extra money for schools in deprived areas.

## Rulebook changes attacked by Left

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

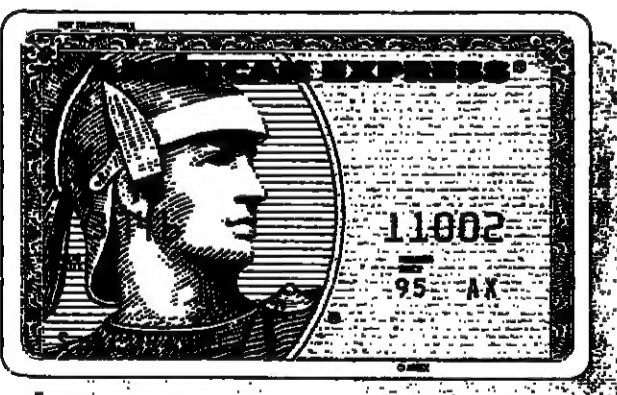
THE Labour leadership was accused yesterday of trying to "railroad through" new rules to give itself more powers at the expense of party members. A new rulebook, to be put to the conference today, gives the party's general secretary the right to turn down membership applications or expel established members. It also gives the party's national executive extra powers to hold special conferences, similar to the Clause Four conference in April, to change policy.

Labour leftwingers immediately accused Tony Blair of trying to gain complete control of the party. A leader from the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy said: "He seems determined to exploit the present pre-election atmosphere to get through conference rule changes which will make the parliamentary party accountable only to itself." The campaign emphasised a proposal to give the general secretary the power to reject membership applications "for any reason which he sees fit".

The group also claimed that a proposal to hold compulsory ballots of individual members would enable the NEC to push through changes without involving the unions, or submitting changes to the conference.

Party sources said that the new rulebook was merely "a consolidation exercise". They argued that the powers given to the general secretary to reject members would merely speed up the present process, which often involved lengthy committee proceedings.

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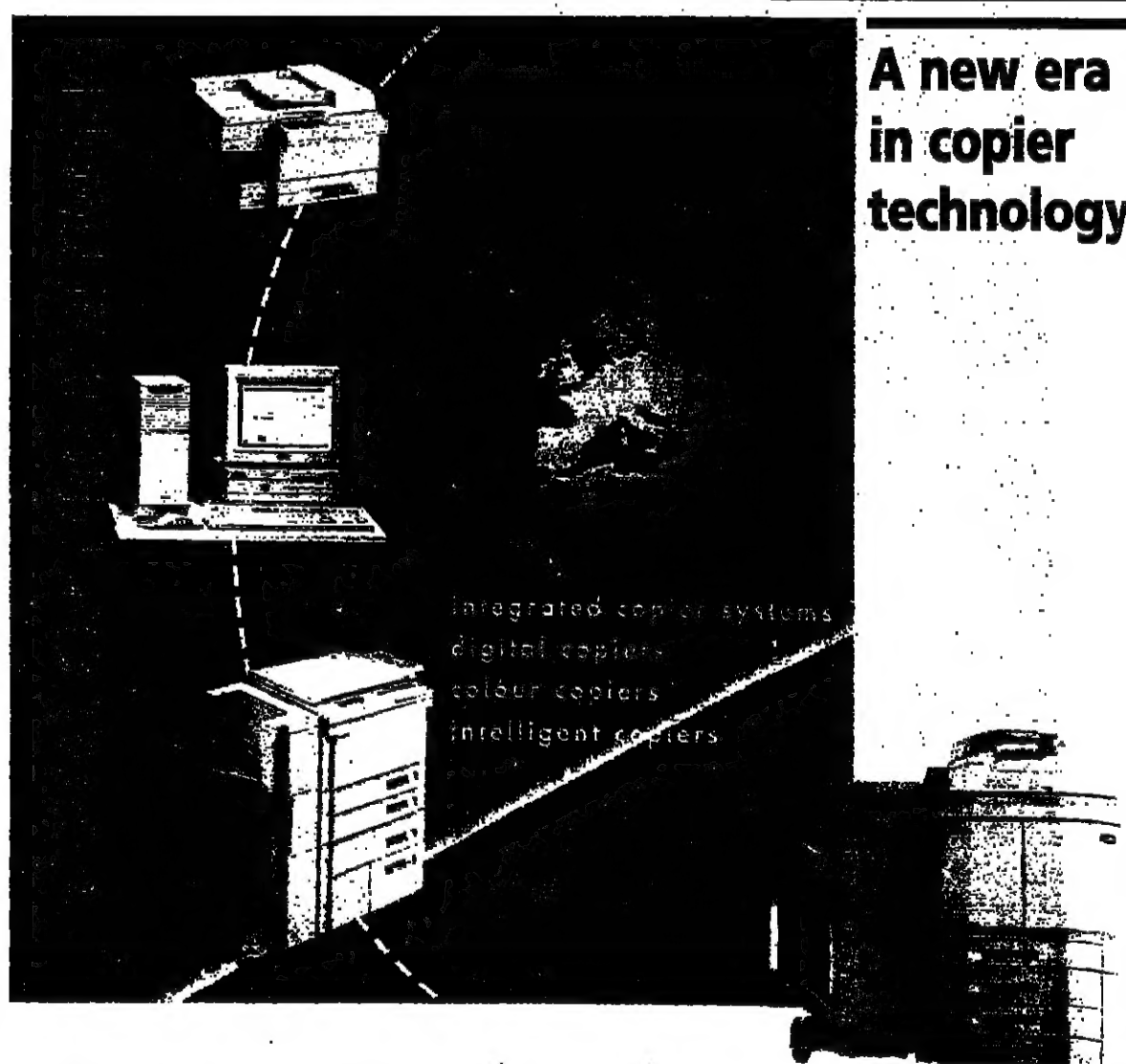
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Briton accused of dismembering victim in Singapore hotel using butchery skills he learned in jail

## Prisoner on the run 'chopped up tourist'

By Andrew Drummond

A MACABRE murder trial in which a British man is accused of chopping up a tourist using butchery skills he learned in prison opened in Singapore yesterday.

John Scripps, 35, who is suspected of being an international serial killer, faces a mandatory death sentence if convicted. He denies the murder of Gerard Lowe, a South African whose remains — minus head — were found in several black plastic sacks floating in Singapore harbour.

Using a giant television screen, Chao Tze Cheng, a pathologist, showed the court Lowe's dismembered body cut up after death by someone with knowledge of anatomy or by someone who had done a similar thing before. He said: "The person who dismembered this body is knowledgeable, clearly a skilful person... either a doctor, a surgeon, a veterinary surgeon or a butcher. I told police immediately that we could be dealing with a serial killer."

Scripps, who absconded during weekend leave from The Mount Prison in Heme-



John Scripps, left, is accused of killing Gerard Lowe, and is suspected of killing Sheila and Darin Damude

Hempstead, Hertfordshire, while serving a sentence for heroin trafficking, is also accused of being behind the disappearance of Timothy McDowall, 28, from south London, while in Mexico in February. He is wanted in Thailand for the alleged murder of a Canadian woman Sheila Damude, and her son Darin, whose dismembered bodies were found in undergrowth on the island of Phuket.

Mrs Damude was formerly secretary to the British Colum-

bian State Finance Minister Hugh Curtis. Darin, 23, was a student. When Scripps was arrested at Changi airport in Singapore he was carrying the Damudes' passports, driving licences and credit cards.

Scripps, clean-shaven and handcuffed, sat in a steel and glass cage in the courtroom as Jennifer Marie, for the prosecution, outlined the case. He was flanked by two policemen inside the cage and four commandos stood guard outside the courtroom.

Miss Marie said that a

prison officer would testify that Scripps had undertaken and quickly mastered butchery during a prison course in Britain. The expert way in which Mr Lowe's body had been dismembered would prove Scripps' guilt, she said.

Mr Lowe, a chemical engineer working for South African Breweries in Johannesburg, had gone on a three-day shopping trip to Singapore. He was befriended by Scripps and they checked into room 1511 of the River View Hotel. Police believe Mr Lowe agreed

to share a room to save money because Singapore hotels are so expensive. Mr Lowe was then murdered by a blow to the head and dismembered in the room between March 8 and March 9.

She said that after the murder Scripps used Mr Lowe's credit card and forged his signature to go on a spending spree. When he was arrested he was carrying Mr Lowe's passport, in which he had substituted his own photograph. Dr John Barber, a forensic scientist, said that

blood found in Scripps's hotel room was the same as that of the corpse, the head of which has never been found.

Mr Lowe's murder came to light when his torso, thighs severed at the hips, and legs chopped at the knees were found in bags in Singapore harbour on March 13 and March 16. When Scripps was arrested two stainless steel knives with serrated blades and a 3lb hammer were found in his bags.

Scripps is also being investigated in connection with unsolved murders in Mexico and San Francisco. One inquiry links him to the disappearance of Timothy McDowall, 28, a Cambridge graduate, and another Briton in Mexico.

During a break in the proceedings, Scripps's mother and sister were involved in an altercation outside the court with press photographers and television cameramen. They pulled at a camera cable and swung their umbrellas to keep journalists away.

Scripps lived in Wapping, east London, but his family came from Sandown on the Isle of Wight. He was serving a 13-year prison sentence when he escaped during



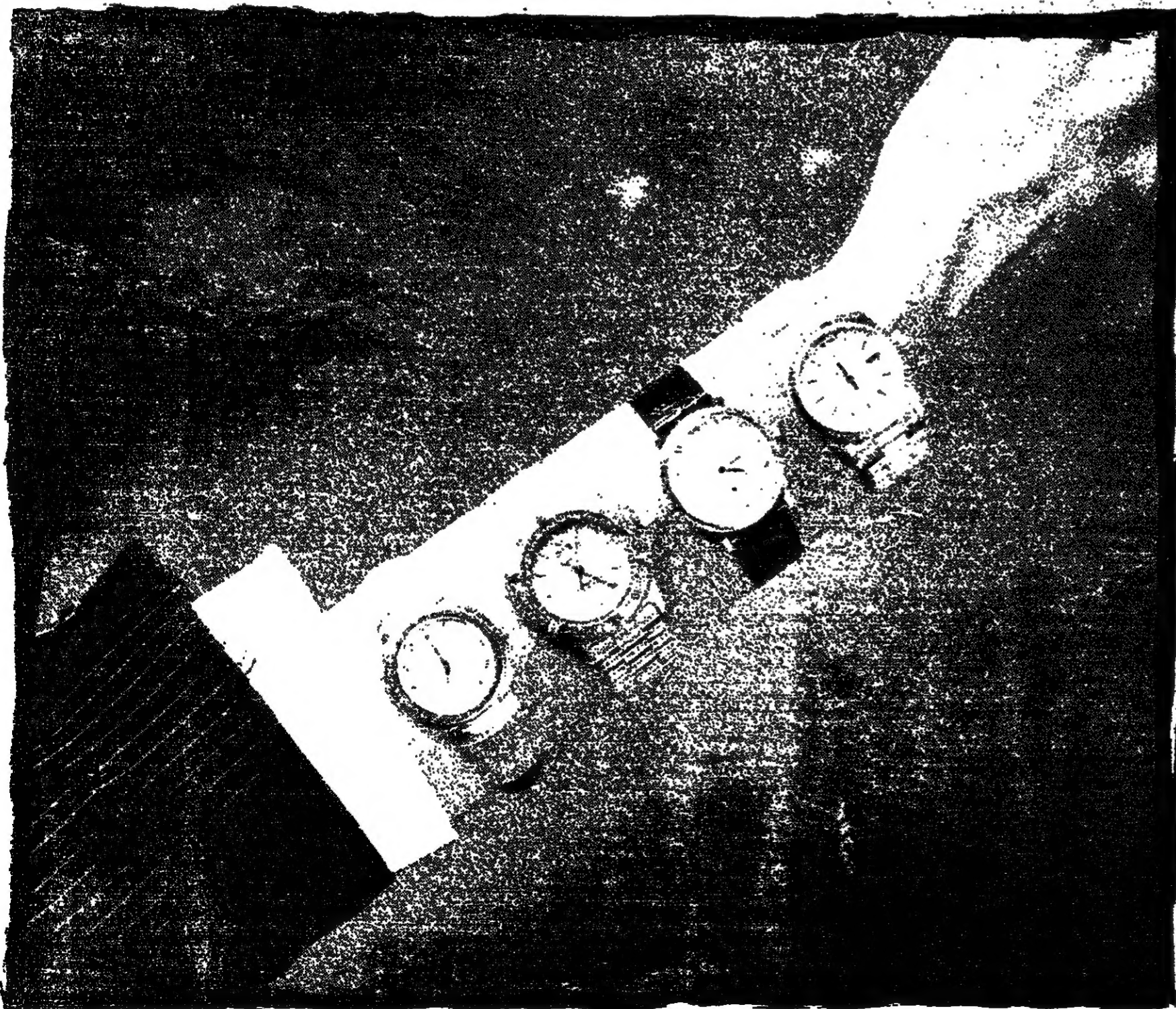
Scripps's sister, left, and his mother trying to fend off camera crews outside the court house yesterday

weekend home leave in October 1994. His mother has claimed that she begged the prison authorities not to grant her son leave. She said: "Two days before he was due to get

leave he sold all his belongings to fellow prisoners. I warned the prison governor. I did not want John to run away. But he did."

The trial continues.

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### Doctors 'are using outdated treatment'

By Catherine Milton

MANY doctors are not keeping up with medical advances and treat patients with outdated and unnecessary techniques, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Dorrell told a conference of medical scientists that an estimated 20 per cent of patients who could benefit from anti-clotting heart drugs were not receiving them. Some young women had unnecessary gynaecological procedures while children were sometimes subjected to surgery of doubtful value for ear, nose, and throat problems.

Mr Dorrell also drew attention to effective medical treatments for peptic ulcers which, he suggested, had made some surgical procedures for the condition obsolete. "It is essential that the introduction of new developments is accompanied by the phasing out of those methods that have been superseded," he said at the Scientific Basis of Health Services in London.

He added that developments in modern medicine presented doctors with a vast amount of information which was impossible for the generalist to assimilate. Health services must invest in research and development if patients were to benefit.

"It is no longer sufficient to rely on clinicians reading articles in the learned journals. They need ready access to research results — an effectiveness index on tap, if you like."

A spokeswoman for the Association of Community Health Councils welcomed the speech, but said patients should be consulted from the outset, and that doctors needed training when new techniques were introduced. Linda Lamont, director of the Patients' Association, said: "Patients should, and will, be asking more questions when they are offered treatments."

### MP wins payout over Arab funds libel

By Frances Gibb

THE Conservative MP Bill Cash won "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he became implicated in an Arab conspiracy to bring down the Government.

Mr Cash, a leading Eurosceptic, had sued the *Daily Mirror* over an article in May 1993 that made allegations about the sources of funding for the *Masstricht* referendum campaign, which he had set up to press for a referendum on the treaty, his counsel, Charles Gray, QC, said. He told Mrs Justice Smith the campaign was financed almost exclusively from public donations. One large donation came from a retired British industrialist who wished to be anonymous.

The article claimed that Mr Cash had dealings with Kuwaiti businessmen linked with the Iraqi and Libyan regimes who wanted to destabilise the Government. Mr Cash, MP for Stafford, took strong exception to the article. Mr Gray said. The allegation was "absolutely untrue". The publishers, MGN Ltd, and the journalist Peter Hoonham now accepted without reservation that no such dealings took place and that no such money had changed hands.

They accepted that "Mr Cash acted honestly and in accordance with his political convictions, that he behaved in a proper and constitutional manner, and that he lent himself to no scheme designed to destabilise the Government".

They agreed to pay undisclosed damages, and costs. Their counsel, Desmond Browne, QC, said it was not their intention to suggest Mr Cash had received money from Kuwaiti sources and they accepted that he had not received money from Kuwaiti sources. They regretted the injury caused and apologised.

### Trees will sprout over city graves

By a Staff Reporter

TREES will replace stone headstones in a planned "green cemetery" in Edinburgh, which was given the go-ahead yesterday.

A silver birch will be planted on each grave, which will also be sown with bluebells and wild flowers. The city council hopes that simple biodegradable coffins or shrouds will be used instead of wooden ones.

The woodland burial ground at Corstorphine Hill Cemetery is expected to be ready next month after the district council's environmental services committee unanimously backed the plans.

A woodland burial will cost £448, compared with £413 for a standard burial. The price includes about £40 for the silver birch. The 500 plots will be recorded on plans and individually numbered so that they can be found as the trees grow.


A further woodland burial section is to be incorporated

in plans for a new public cemetery in the city. Edinburgh is believed to be the first Scottish city to adopt such a plan. Carlisle and Brighton already have similar cemeteries.

Ian Perry, convener of the environmental services committee, said: "We are keen to support environmental initiatives. I am sure this site will not only improve the natural environment of Corstorphine Hill but will also provide a living memorial."

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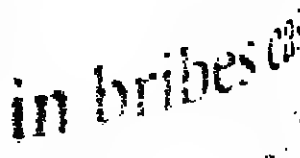
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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER







## Scandinavian leaders spearhead attack on Chirac's South Pacific programme

## Euro ministers say French nuclear test undermines Union

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN LUXEMBOURG AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE's latest nuclear test cast a pall over a European ministers' session in Luxembourg yesterday, clouding talk of an Atlantic free trade area and adding to a malaise among the smaller states over the Union's direction.

Anger over yesterday's high-yield test at Fangataua in the South Pacific echoed around Brussels and Luxembourg. The EU Com-

mission abandoned its previous stance and said it that deplored the blast.

At a Luxembourg EU meeting, Scandinavian ministers led the attack on Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, charging him with the European people and undermining the Union. Ministers from all the EU states except Britain, Germany, Italy,

Spain and Portugal spoke out against President Chirac.

"We are very, very disappointed," Lena Hjelm-Wallén, the Swedish Foreign Minister, said. "We had hoped that the reaction around the world would have stopped the tests." Niels Helveg-Petersen, the Danish Minister, said that German silence did not imply approval. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, noted that it was "up to France to justify" its decision to test.

"There will be no more nuclear tests as far as the United Kingdom is concerned," he added. The opposing states lamented the disarray which they said French behaviour was inflicting on the Union at a time when confidence was being sapped by doubts over monetary union and other issues. "It seems Chirac does not give a hoot about Europe," a senior Nordic official said. Mr Rifkind, however, said that it would serve to "bring home the fact that different member states have different foreign policy and defence priorities."

M de Charette said that most of the noise was coming from the media rather than other governments. "I do not think this is damaging French diplomacy," he said.

The French defence had an explosive force estimated at six times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The second explosion in the new series of tests was beneath Fangataua atoll 750 miles southeast of Tahiti. It was "less than 110 kilotonnes", according to the Defence Ministry, and intended to evaluate the 150-kilotonne TN75 warhead that will be carried by France's five Triomphant-class submarines.

It is believed that the second test was carried out to check the reliability of the TN75 warhead, which will equip new French submarines next year. A spokesman for the French military said: "The goal of this test was to guarantee the safety and reliability of the weapons in the future."

A seismograph records yesterday's explosion



The sea erupts off Mururoa after the first French test

## Blast churns atoll lagoon into foam

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A BRIGHT flash and a sea of foaming water signalled to the world France's second nuclear explosion of the present series, at Fangataua atoll in the South Pacific yesterday, as the magnitude of the huge blast turned the lagoon white.

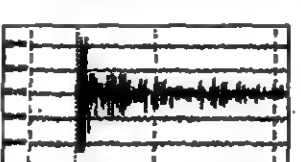
Television film of the test, taken by the French military authorities, was the only material broadcast around the Pacific region: a Greenpeace vessel, the *Manureva*, whose crew had been hoping to film the blast, was seized by French marines shortly before the test.

The 110-kilotonne explosion, set off by the turn of a key by French military officials in bunkers hidden deep in Fangataua atoll, quickly spread out across the water in a huge ring as the sea began to bubble. Ken Muirhead, an official of the Australian Seismological Centre, said that the

blast was was one of the largest nuclear explosions ever recorded.

The Australian Geological Survey Organisation, which registered the blast in Canberra 12 minutes after it occurred, said the explosion had registered at ten times the intensity of the shockwaves of the first blast, which took place on September 5. Greenpeace says that Fangataua atoll was chosen for the second test because Mururoa atoll, the site of the first in the series, was too fragile to withstand the greater blast.

It is believed that the second test was carried out to check the reliability of the TN75 warhead, which will equip new French submarines next year. A spokesman for the French military said: "The goal of this test was to guarantee the safety and reliability of the weapons in the future."



A seismograph records yesterday's explosion



Greenpeace activists occupying the roof of the French Ambassador's residence in London yesterday

## Warhead linked to new submarines

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE's latest nuclear test was part of its strategic deterrent modernisation programme which is currently under review.

The French Navy's five Redoutable-class submarines, each armed with 16 M4 missiles, are being replaced by a new Triomphant-class boat which will have the updated and longer-range M45 missile.

Under longer-term plans the French propose to replace the M45 missile with the M5 system which will have ten to 12 warheads and a range of 6,000 miles. Deployment of the even bigger missile system is planned for about 2010.

The latest nuclear test was aimed at certifying the performance characteristics of the TN75 warhead for the M45 missile. Although 22 previous tests had been carried out during development, the

French military said it needed one final experiment.

The future of France's strategic systems and the structure of French armed forces is currently the subject of a comprehensive review ordered by the Chirac Government. Unlike Britain and other Nato countries, France had postponed a defence review following the end of the Cold War. However, President Chirac ordered a full examination of security requirements and a report is expected early next year. The M45 and M5 systems are both included in the review.

The current proposal is to fit the M45 missile system with its TN75 warhead to the four Triomphant-class submarines and to refit them with the M5 at a later date. The number of Triomphant-class submarines has already been cut from six to four.

## TESTING OF FRANCE'S LATEST MISSILE WARHEAD AND HOW IT COMPARES

French M45 missile  
Warhead: 10-12 TN75s of 150 kilotons each  
Range: 3,750 miles  
Length: 28ft  
Diameter: 6ft  
Launch weight: 35,000 kilos  
To be replaced in 2010 by M45 missile  
Warhead: 10-12 TN75s of 150 kilotons each  
Range: 6,000 miles

British Trident D5 missile  
Warhead: eight of 100-120 kilotons each  
Range: 6,750 miles  
Length: 44ft  
Diameter: 7ft  
Launch weight: 55,000 kilos

British Vanguard class  
Length: 131ft  
Width: 42ft  
Height: 28ft  
Missiles: 16 Trident D5s

French M45 missile  
Warhead: 10-12 TN75s of 150 kilotons each  
Range: 3,750 miles  
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British Vanguard class  
Length: 131ft  
Width: 42ft  
Height: 28ft  
Missiles: 16 Trident D5s

## Explosion renews wave of protests

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE's explosion of a second nuclear bomb in the South Pacific yesterday sparked angry protests throughout the Pacific region.

Paul Keating, Australia's Prime Minister, immediately said: "The test ignores the understandable outrage in the international community at the first French test. France's good name in the region and around the world has been further damaged. Australia's efforts to press France to abandon its nuclear test programme will be unceasing and unrelenting."

In New Zealand, Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, added: "There is a great sense of frustration that France seems determined not to listen to the voice of the Pacific, the voice of world leaders at home in Europe or anywhere else."

Top-level protests regretting the test also came from Japan, Russia and Norway. In Australia, New Zealand and Japan, French ambassadors were summoned to meetings to receive a formal protest.

The New Zealand Government is resisting strong pressure from opposition parties to sever diplomatic ties with France. The South Pacific Forum, a grouping of 15 independent nations, is likely to move to suspend France as a dialogue partner. New Zealand and Papua New Guinea yesterday reiterated their support for such action.

Anti-French protesters in Sydney and Canberra marched on French consulates while Australian unions declared a 24-hour strike on refuelling French aircraft. In Norway, many workers stopped work for five minutes at midday to protest against French and Chinese testing.

In Papeete, the Tahiti capital, the mood was tense with more than a thousand French police on stand-by to avert any repetition of the riots that followed the first test.

In London, 20 Greenpeace activists were being held by police last night after climbing on to the roof of the French Ambassador's official residence. The organisation condemned the explosion as "totally outrageous".

## Kenyan spared gallows

Nakuru: Kolgi wa Wanware, Kenya's leading dissident, and two defendants were sentenced to four years' jail and six strokes of the cane after being found guilty of attempting to steal weapons from a police station, which carries a mandatory death sentence, was dropped. (Reuters)

## Dual control

Moroni: Comoros coup leader Captain Combo Ayoub, freed from jail by Colonel Bob Denard, appointed two civilian Presidents as anger grew against the mercenaries. But most backed removal of President Djohar. (Reuters)

## Storm havoc

Manila: President Ramos, while on a working visit to Kuala Lumpur, declared a Philippines state of calamity after 29 provinces and 27 cities were ravaged by tropical storm Sybil. More than 100 have died. (Reuters)

## Nigerian TV shows excerpts from plot trial

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LAGOS



Obasanjo: his conviction led to worldwide protests

THE Nigerian military Government was accused yesterday of playing games with the liberty of its citizens after state-controlled television showed excerpts of a secret coup plot trial hours after sentences on 40 alleged plotters were commuted.

The videotape of the trial, screened on Sunday night, purported to show that there were two plots, which later converged, against the Government of General Sani Abacha. The trial excerpts conveyed that General Oluasegun Obasanjo, the former ruler, and his former deputy, Major-General Shehu,

Yar'Adua, met the alleged leaders and supported their plans. The conviction of General Obasanjo, widely respected in the West, at a secret military trial earlier this year provoked protests around the world and threats of sanctions against Nigeria.

In the face of mounting international pressure, General Abacha on Sunday commuted sentences on the accused, 14 of whom faced execution, but did not specify what the prison terms would be. He also gave details of a three-year transition to civilian rule. In the film, the narrator portrayed retired

Colonel Sambo Dasuki, an exiled fugitive, as the leader of the main plot in which General Abacha would be assassinated by a bomb at a Muslim praying ground or the presidency in Abuja, the capital, would be stormed. The other plot also involved exiled Nigerians and was allegedly hatched in neighbouring Benin.

One independent newspaper described the film as "a revealing testimony" but Gani Fawehinmi, one of the few leading opposition figures not behind bars, said the film was faked and televised to make General Abacha look mag-

nanimous. Critics of the Abacha regime have accused it of dreaming up the coup plot last March to crack down on pro-democracy campaigners and divert pressure for the return to civilian rule.

A senior Western diplomat said that there was no evidence to convict General Obasanjo and warned General Abacha that he was "playing with fire".

"He is clearly trying to tease out of us further approval for the transition process. This is playing games with people's liberty," the diplomat said.

Leading article, page 17

## Army kills 51 Tigers in Jaffna offensive

FROM REUTERS IN COLOMBO

AB OUT 51 Tamil Tiger guerrillas were killed in a Sri Lankan Army offensive that led to the capture of a number of towns in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, a military communiqué said yesterday. The army lost 19 men.

The offensive, codenamed Thunder Strike, involved three army brigades backed by tanks and artillery. The soldiers, advancing from Palaly air base on the northern tip of Jaffna at dawn on Sunday, overran guerrilla positions to the south, it said. "By afternoon troops captured an area of eight square miles, including Achchaveli, Thoppu, Navakkeri, Vasavilani, Puttur, Pathamoni, Avartanki, Iddakadu and Vallai."

The troops faced initial resistance from the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "Subsequently the terrorists started withdrawing further to the south," the communiqué said. "The operation is in progress."

Brigadier Sarath Meneasinghe had denied on Sunday that the troop movements signalled the start of the planned major offensive against the

Tigers which has been expected before monsoon rains start in the middle of the month.

The rebel Tiger Lord reported heavy fighting in Jaffna on Sunday. It said tanks and armoured vehicles were moving towards rebel-held areas, and that shells had been hitting the Achchaveli area since Sunday morning. At least five civilians were killed, it said. There had also been heavy fighting at the key Elephant Pass, which links the government-controlled southern mainland with the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The Government has said it wants to crush the Tigers after they unilaterally broke a truce in April and resumed hostilities, refusing to study a government peace plan offering extensive autonomy to Tamils. Anuruddha Ratwatte, the Deputy Defence Minister, was quoted yesterday as saying Colombo would not slow down or abandon the war but it would be fought to a finish within two or three months. Once the 12-year-old war was over, a political solution to the ethnic problem was necessary for lasting peace, he added.

## Cambodia delays British doctor's rape hearing

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PHNOM PENH

was being brought to court, said Nob Sophon, deputy chief of Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

Depending on the decision of a judge, the monk was to have been either a witness or a co-defendant in the trial of Gavin Scott, who was arrested in June on suspicion of paedophilia after five teenage boys complained to the police that Dr Scott had assaulted them. The trial was to have begun today.

Court sources quoted by the *Cambodia Daily* newspaper said that the monk may also be charged with kidnapping.

Dr Scott's lawyer, Samuel Oum, confirmed that the case had been postponed indefinitely. Dr Scott, who had operated a private practice in the capital for several years, has been held in Phnom Penh's notorious colonial-era prison and has been refused bail. The rape charge carries a three to five-year prison term on conviction.

The five teenagers complained to police with the help of the Cambodian branch of End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism. The group has come under fire from a growing number of foreigners, who have sent letters to the editor of local newspapers, contending that the private group has conducted the entire investigation and has interfered with Dr Scott's ability to prepare a defence by opposing his release on bail. The group has declined to comment.



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# NatWest sells Centre-File to US for £33.1m

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST GROUP is selling part of its computer services subsidiary, Centre-File, to Ceridian, a US information and defence electronics company, for £33.1 million. The rest, mainly software businesses, will either be transferred to NatWest or sold.

The restructuring and sale of Centre-File is the latest of a stream of NatWest disposals that include sales of its retail banking subsidiaries in Europe and Australia, the sale of its global custody business to Lloyds Bank, and more recently, the announcement of its intention to seek a buyer for NatWest Bancorp, its US retail banking operation.

Trevor Blackler, chief executive of NatWest Group Services, said the bank's policy over the past few years had been to concentrate "its resources in markets where it can have a major and profitable presence, and divesting those businesses which do not fit its strategic objectives."

The restructuring will be completed next year. Ceridian, which grew out of the reshaping of Control Data Corporation in 1992, will take over the Centre-File personal and payroll services division.

The division employs 204 people, all of whom will be transferred to a UK subsidiary of Ceridian which, as part of the deal, has bought the Centre-File name. It has also entered into a marketing agreement with NatWest UK in which the two will jointly market a NatWest-branded payroll and personal system to NatWest customers.

In a separate facilities management deal, NatWest will continue to provide a computer processing service to Ceridian.

For Ceridian the acquisition is its 13th since 1992, and its first acquisition of a human resources company outside the US.

Lawrence Perlman, its chairman and chief executive, said there were excellent opportunities for the firm to grow its human resources business in Europe, the US and other markets.

Centre-File was set up by NatWest over 25 years ago as a computer bureau and now employs a total of 1,200 staff. A NatWest spokesman said:

"There are going to be some job losses, but he was unable to say how many, adding that the bank would attempt to redeploy staff whose roles disappeared during the restructuring."

Centre-File also includes a group of software companies, most of which have been put up for sale.

NatWest is "in advanced stages of negotiations with a potential purchaser" of K3, which supplies software to building societies and insurance companies and employs 150 people.

As part of the restructuring, NatWest has set up a unit called Integrated Work, a software and consultancy company that supplies integrated workflow software and employs 140 people, which has been put up for sale or joint venture.

Centre-File's Information Management Systems arm will move in-house, but a computer processing contract with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) has been put up for sale.

NatWest Business Solutions, which also develops banking and insurance software, but mostly for NatWest businesses, will become part of the group's information technology operation.



John Bridgeman says his brief is to ensure that choice thrives through competition

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Insurers fear dawn of green claims era

ENVIRONMENTAL issues have become so politically sensitive that companies in Britain are concerned that they will soon have to buy extra insurance policies to cover potential multimillion pound claims. Over the past five years, governments have been made aware of the seriousness of environmental pollution, while authorities have become more ready to prosecute, according to the Association of British Insurers (ABI).

The Association of Insurance and Risk Managers (Airmie), which represents 600 insurance buyers, fears that some of the world's largest insurance companies may exclude pollution claims from many commercial insurance policies, forcing companies to buy extra cover at greater cost and with restricted coverage. The insurance industry is becoming so concerned at the prospect of huge claims dragging on for many years that the ABI is to launch an enquiry. The most famous pollution claims in recent years were those against the Exxon Valdez, the tanker that ran aground in Prince William Sound, close to Alaska, in March 1989. The company has paid out \$900 in damages so far. An ABI spokesman said the issue of pollution would be looked at closely "because claims are potentially huge and drag on for years".

### Ofex makes its debut

OFEK, the screen-based trading system designed to offer a similar facility to the now defunct rule 1.2 on the Stock Exchange, yesterday launched its activities with 50 companies trading. The operation, set up by J.P. Jenkins, the broker, has taken on large names such as National Car Parking and Westab. Generally, however, the companies are smaller and have switched to Ofex in preference to the more costly Alternative Investment Market — whose dealers experienced no rush of activity, although 10 more firms joined yesterday.

### Four in rail shortlist

FOUR consortiums have been shortlisted to bid for the concession to finance, build and operate Croydon Tramlink, a 28km light rail network to link Croydon with Wimbledon, Beckenham and New Addington. They are Altram (whose partners are John Laing, Ansaldo Transport and Serco Group); Croydon Connect (Tarmac, AEG and Transdev); CT Light Rail Group (GEC Alsthom, Mowlem and Welsh Water); and Tramtrack Croydon (Centrewest, Bank of Scotland, McAlpine, Amey Construction and Bombardier Eurorail).

### Rockefeller Centre bid

DAVID ROCKEFELLER has re-entered the battle for control of the Rockefeller Centre, the bankrupt Manhattan development 80 per cent owned by Mitsubishi. He has linked with Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, and Tishman Speyer, a New York property group, to launch a \$297 million bid for the company that owns the \$1.3 billion mortgage. The offer was made at a bankruptcy court hearing at which an offer by Chicago developer Sam Zell in partnership with Walt Disney and General Electric was likely to be accepted.

### TT Group purchase

TT GROUP, the electronic and industrial products company, has acquired Linton & Hirst Group, a manufacturer of laminations for the electronics industry, for £16.8 million. The vendors are the management, Schroder Ventures and North of England Ventures, who are management buy-in in 1992. Up to £1.72 million of the total consideration is conditional on the business earning profits of at least £2.5 million in the year to December 31. In 1994 Linton & Hirst earned profits of £1.7 million before tax on turnover of £27.1 million.

### Dredging pays same

BRITISH DREDGING, the building products, marine dredging and ship repair company, is maintaining the interim at 26p after a decline in profits to £685,000 before tax (£888,000) in the half year to June 30. Profits were affected by total exceptional charges of £250,000 relating to operational problems on one of the company's dredgers, trading losses at a new Selco trade centre in Bristol, a theft at another outlet and costs associated to management changes. Michael Brown, chairman, said trading was becoming increasingly difficult.

### Chiroscience soars

CHIROSCIENCE Group said one of its key products in development, an oral treatment for arthritis, would soon enter clinical trials. Collaborative deals and increased sales were starting to flow, the biotechnology company said. In the half year to August 31 sales rose to £1.1 million (£760,000). Pre-tax losses were £5.5 million (£3.75 million). John Padfield, chief executive, said the results were well within plan after research and development costs increased to £5.55 million from £3.66 million. The shares rose 13p to 310p.

### Building society contract

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the building society at the centre of much speculation over whether it plans to seek a merger or go for a stock market flotation, has awarded the contract for providing third party services to its new life and unit trust arm to Marlborough Stirling Administration. A&L, which owns Girobank, is due to end its agency agreement with Scottish Amicable next year. Scottish Amicable, itself the subject of bid and merger rumours, had been a strong contender for the contract to provide services to A&L's new life operation.

### London Clubs expands

LONDON CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, the casino operator, has acquired London Park Tower casino at the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel in Knightsbridge for an initial £16 million, with a further deferred payment of up to £6 million depending on profits. The deal will be funded out of London Clubs' existing resources. The net assets of London Park Tower, one of the last privately owned casinos in the capital, were £14.4 million at April 30. In the last financial year, the club made a pre-tax profit of £1.6 million on turnover of £7.4 million.

## Tenneco paying \$1.3bn for Mobil plastics division

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

TENNECO, the energy and manufacturing conglomerate, is buying the plastics division of Mobil Corp for \$1.3 billion to form one of the world's largest packaging and consumer products companies.

The purchase is likely to herald an expansion of Tenneco's packaging operations in the UK and Europe. "There are opportunities to expand and the Mobil plastics acquisition will increase them," a company spokeswoman said. "The Mobil division has operations that are not overseas at present but could be in the future." Tenneco last week announced the purchase of Penlec Plastics, a Newcastle company, as part of a strategy to build its worldwide packaging operations.

The addition of Mobil Plastics, already one of the largest packaging groups in the US, to Tenneco's Packaging Corp of America, will create a company with annual revenues of \$4 billion. It will specialise in plastic caddy and packaging for the food industry, such as supermarket bags and polystyrene packaging.

Although the Mobil business operates only in the US and Canada, Tenneco's existing packaging businesses include interests in Europe and the Far East.

Early this year Tenneco raised about £230 million through the flotation in London of Albright & Wilson, the UK chemicals company.

Tenneco has already spent \$1 billion on acquisitions over the past year in a strategy to diversify away from cyclical businesses and build its core energy and petrochemical operations.

"This acquisition significantly accelerates our progress toward reshaping Tenneco into a world-class higher-growth business," Dana Mead, Tenneco's chairman and chief executive, said.

"We expect the positive financial impact to kick in almost immediately — it adds to our EPS in very short order."

The company said more acquisitions were likely as it restructured its operations. Mobil said it would use the proceeds of the sale to fund acquisitions in its core energy businesses.

## OECD sees 10% growth in Russia

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE Russian economy has probably started to expand, if full account is taken of the private sector, and could reach 10 per cent annual growth next year, if inflation is cut and reforms continue.

The conclusions are contained in the latest survey from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which adds the upturn could falter if inflation remains high or if there is no improvement in the commercial environment or more productive use of resources.

Its formal forecast is for annual growth in the gross domestic product of 2 per cent in real terms next year, after a 5 per cent contraction this year. The Russian economy has contracted sharply since the collapse of communism, with the gap falling 50 per cent since 1990.

Recent economic improvement is attributed to good export performance, which has given a relatively healthy position on the current account, the OECD says. It notes that the indicators of external indebtedness are also looking less unfavourable.

## Radical plan to spread pension risks

By ROBERT MILLER

A RADICAL new plan on the way in which occupational pension schemes are run in the future and how to share the risks and rewards on a more equitable basis between employers and employees was launched at a leading pensions conference yesterday.

Addressing the one-day 1995 Pensions Conference, organised by the Confederation of British Industry and held in London, Tony Mason, a partner of Lane Clark & Peacock (LCP), a firm of consulting actuaries, said the most significant feature of LCP's Pensions 2000 plan was to introduce the concept of sharing the risks and rewards of investment performance between employers and members of occupational schemes by having a new system of bonuses within a final salary related structure.

At present, those in final salary schemes are guaranteed a number of benefits when they take their pension, which adds greatly to the employers' costs. Money purchase scheme members enjoy no such guarantees and the costs to the employer are generally much smaller. Mr

Mason said: "Employers are looking for much greater certainty of cost in the future than is currently provided by traditional final salary schemes. Equally, employees are becoming increasingly unhappy at taking the full investment risk in a money purchase arrangement, as they begin to appreciate the implications of the mis-selling of personal pensions and their exposure to movements in the markets."

Under the LCP plan, benefits for scheme members would be calculated as a percentage of earnings but expressed as a lump sum known as a Capital Value. The lump sum would then increase each year as service accrues, earnings grow and bonuses are declared.

On retirement, the Capital Value is converted into benefits taken as a combination of lump sum, an entitlement to annual income, and if desired, a pension for their spouse or dependant.

The annual discretionary bonus is estimated at 3 per cent, but could vary between 0 and 6 per cent.

Pennington, page 27

## Bridgeman champions cause of consumers

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, former managing director of British Alcan Aluminium, yesterday took office as Director-General of Fair Trading. He is charged with protecting consumers from the excesses of monopolistic companies.

In spite of his business background — he is the first industrialist to head the Office of Fair Trading since the late Sir John Methven, the former ICI chief, became founder Director-General in 1973 — Mr Bridgeman made plain his determination to put the consumer first in competition policy.

He said: "I intend to do all I can for open and efficient markets and vigorous competition between businesses. This is at the heart of greater consumer choice."

"The OFT is at the centre of the UK's competition and consumer life and I want it to continue to be a dynamic and industrious agency for consumer protection."

Mr Bridgeman, who celebrates his 51st birthday this week, was appointed by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade.

He succeeds Sir Bryan Carsberg in the watchdog role.

Sir Bryan, an accountant and academic who earned his regulatory spurs at Ofel, the telecommunications watchdog, resigned while half way through his five-year term to head the International Accounting Standards Committee.

He had argued forcefully for Britain to adopt a European-style law banning uncompetitive practices and for the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, to be combined.

Mr Bridgeman is a former member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and is visiting professor of management at Keele University.

Jeffrey Preston, who has been acting Director-General at the Office of Fair Trading since Sir Bryan's departure in May, resumes his post as deputy director-general.

## National Savings seeks the wealthy

By MORAG PRESTON



Knight: launched the new campaign

ANGELA KNIGHT, the Treasury Minister, launched an advertising campaign for National Savings (NS) yesterday, to attract younger-middle-aged, affluent customers, as pressure rises for the Government to meet borrowing targets.

From tomorrow, investors will be able to buy Government investments from application forms that will appear regularly in five national newspapers, including The Times, as part of a campaign that will run for a year to obviate the need for investors to visit a post office.

The sales strategy was launched a week after the Bank of England's gilt auction failure. To meet its £25 billion target towards the public sector borrowing requirement this year, NS needs to generate £8-9 billion sales.

Newspapers will feature two advertisements in the same space every week, called Virtual Shops, that will offer

product information as well as an application form. The campaign follows research by NS, that showed investors often did not know where to find them.

Anne Nash, head of marketing, said: "Investors will know where to look in the future. When somebody has money to invest they will know where to find us. NS has targeted customers aged 45-55, looking to invest lump sums. The campaign seeks to differentiate NS from big building societies, highlighting its security as a Treasury department. NS has 10 products, including Premium Bonds, its best seller, with sales of £3 billion, since the announcement of a monthly £1 million jackpot two years ago."

Mrs Nash said the timing of the launch was coincidental, and that it was the new advertising agency's idea to spend of the £5 million annual advertising budget on the direct-marketing campaign.

Pennington, page 27

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	19.92	19.42
Belgium Fr	49.52	45.22
Canada \$	2.22	2.05
Denmark Dkr	0.752	0.597
France Fr	2.38	2.59
Germany DM	7.34	6.59
Italy Lira	8.25	7.02
Japan Yen	2.42	2.21
Netherlands Gld	383.60	336.00
New Zealand \$	1.24	1.14
Portugal Esc	1.03	0.95
Spain Ptas	5.1436	4.4936
Sweden Kr	264.00	249.00
Switzerland Fr	172.00	156.00
Taiwan NT\$	0.297	0.242
West Germany DM	2.95	2.45
Yugoslavia Dinar	2.54	2.32
US \$	10.52	9.72
Yugoslavia Dinar	247.50	223.00
South Africa Rand	rel.	rel.
Spain Ptas	202.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	11.53	10.78
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Taiwan NT\$	rel.	rel.
US \$	1.07	1.05

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□ Alternating currents on monopolies reference □ Labour trumpets virtues of price stability □ Peddling harder on savings

## National's power switch

IF THE ability to admit one was wrong is a sign of greatness, then John Baker at National Power is a great man indeed. Two months ago, he deemed a monopolies reference inevitable for any bid by a generator for a regional electricity distributor. Now he has launched one himself, and is claiming no such reference is needed.

Mr Baker was talking about ScottishPower's hostile offer for Manweb, and at the time dismissed suggestions that National Power might itself bid for another of the Regs. His change of heart has come because he thought such a bid, and a re-establishment of the vertical integration between distribution and generation that was explicitly dismantled at the time of privatisation, would never be countenanced by the competition authorities.

Since then, not only have electricity bids multiplied, but the boundaries of what is deemed permissible have also been pushed back by PowerGen's agreed deal with Midlands. There has always been an unofficial corporate rivalry between the two quoted generators, the smaller PowerGen painting itself the hare to National Power's tortoise. The latter has therefore

been pushed into its offer by the actions of its rival as much as by the fast-diminishing number of bid candidates. But the company's hurried move runs the risk of frustrating both its own offer and that of PowerGen, by increasing the chances of a reference.

The Government's policy of competition within the power industry has been subjected to attack by a rapidly thickening wedge. The first few bids were fairly anodyne. Trafalgar House, basing its sums on extensive tax benefits, may not have done much for the Exchequer, but its offer had few implications for competition. Likewise, Hanson, and various American utilities, merely involved a transfer of the licence to a different owner.

The kicker was ScottishPower for Manweb, the first bid from inside the industry. Once this was cleared, the question was not, should the industry be restructured, but to what extent would this happen before the authorities stepped in? All logic

suggests that a generator-distributor merger should be way the other side of any new limits on restructuring. National Power, like PowerGen, is willing to make the necessary promises about ring-fencing the different businesses and not allowing power to be sold direct from one to the other. But it is unclear how easily these undertakings can be policed, while it was in order to protect consumers from such cross-subsidy that the two activities were split out of the old CSGB in the first place. These are the sort of questions that the Monopolies Commission was created to debate.

### Brown's fine line on inflation

THE fight against inflation is now a Labour campaign, because Labour's natural supporters, those on low incomes, fixed incomes and pensioners' incomes, are those who suffer most from rising prices.

Gordon Brown's message yesterday was in reality projected at a pin-stripe suited audience far from Brighton. But by invoking society's more vulnerable members as the main victims of inflation, he neatly sold the line of macroeconomic austerity and fiscal responsibility to the equally sceptical audience in attendance there. Moreover, a populist attack on the utility fat cats provided the best line of the speech. Power corrupts, he said, but National Power corrupts absolutely.

Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities of some £2.5-£3 billion is a free gift

politically. It is cost-free in terms of the public sector borrowing requirement and therefore does not send alarm bells ringing in the City. Yesterday Mr Brown told the world where the money would go — on eradicating youth unemployment, with £1 billion spent in the first year, £400 million in the second and so on. Labour believes that the scheme would virtually finance itself after five years. Be reassured: the utility tax is definitely a one-off.

While Labour's estimates are inevitably highly speculative, private government pilot studies show the potential of schemes that provide bridges out of benefit dependency into work, whether through subsidised jobs or increased training. What Mr Brown did yesterday was to use the political windfall of public disapproval of the utilities to offer a fairly traditional Labour programme to promote employment. With opinion polls citing unemployment and job insecurity as major electoral concerns, that seems sensible

politics. With the money coming from companies the City says can afford to pay, the economics would seem feasible too.

### Virtual gamble

THE National Lottery has been blamed for any number of social ills — job losses among bookmakers, worthy charities left starved of cash — so it was refreshing not to hear the same old excuse being wheeled out by HM Treasury to account for slackening interest in National Savings certificates.

Angela Knight also refrained from linking last week's disastrous gilts auction with the latest blitz on small savers, which has instead been planned for months. That the lottery has had an effect on National Savings is undeniable, and explicitly accepted by the pre-emptive strike in December 1993 that raised the monthly jackpot on premium bonds to £1 million. This made

the premium bond an acceptable alternative in some households to the lottery, one that allowed the punter to keep the stake money. Premium bond sales have risen, at the expense of savings certificates, and hence the arrival of Virtual Shops, which allow the range of products available to be updated rapidly.

By a strange irony, the launch coincided with the first day of trading for the new Littlewoods scratch card — heavily promoted in those same Post Offices that have been the traditional outlet for National Savings.

### Age-old pensions

THE idea that employers and employees should spread the risks and rewards of pensions more evenly, as floated at the CBI pensions conference, is not going to be popular in both camps. But it carries one advantage for middle-ranking, middle-aged executives in fear for their jobs. Under existing arrangements, they have always been the cheapest to move out of the door. A revamped final salary scheme, as envisaged, by contrast would provide employers with an economic justification for a return to last in, first out.

## City storm follows profits warning from First Choice

By MARIANNE CURRIE

FIRST CHOICE, the UK's third largest tour operator, has announced a two-for-five rights issue to fund the acquisition of two travel companies. It also gave warning that full-year pre-tax profits would be £15 million lower, at about £1 million, after "the toughest summer season on record".

Francis Baron, chief executive, said that bookings for August, normally the most profitable month for travel companies, had "fallen through the floor" because of the heatwave in Britain. First Choice made £14 million less than anticipated that month because of the need for heavy discounting, he said.

The profits warning angered many in the City who accused First Choice of falling to come clean about its collapse in bookings, after Atoutours, its rival, had issued a profits warning early in July.

One analyst said: "Management have not done their reputation any favours by springing this upon us." The shares fell 18p, to 70p.

First Choice, formerly Owners Abroad, underwent a £7.7 million rebranding and mar-



Baron: long, hot summer

keting campaign last year. Mr Baron said that the group would be spending at least £1 million less on marketing for next year.

The £44.1 million raised from the rights issue will enable the group to buy Skibound, the leading operator in the UK schools and group ski market for about £23 million, and to acquire JWT Holidays in the Republic of Ireland for £15.3 million.

The Skibound deal will proceed only if shareholders approve the rights issue, while the JWT acquisition is not conditional on such approval.

An extraordinary meeting has been called for October 25. First Choice also plans to increase its holding in Fiesta West, its Canadian subsidiary, from 50 to 100 per cent, for £318 million (£8.7 million). The rights issue will also pay for the refinancing of one Boeing 757 aircraft by way of a sale and operating leaseback.

Wayne Sanderson, a leisure analyst at Smith New Court who had estimated full-year pre-tax profits of about £23 million (£16.3 million) before today's announcement, said that the acquisitions looked "sensible and fairly priced".

Mr Baron said bookings for this winter were 44 per cent greater than those at the same time last year. Early demand for next summer was also strong, with bookings up 10 per cent on the year.

More than 75 million new ordinary shares will be issued at 60p a share, and 153 new ordinary shares for every 250 convertible preference shares held on October 18. The ordinary shares will be entitled to the final dividend of 2.45p for the year to October 31.

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## Expansion suits Moss Bros as figures cut a dash

By PATRICIA TEHAN

MOSS BROS'S continued expansion of its menswear business has paid off. The group's pre-tax profits soared 67 per cent to £32.1 million in the six months to July 29.

Rowland Gee, managing director, said Moss Bros had doubled its market share in the last five years to 8 per cent — after Marks & Spencer with

15 per cent and Burtons with 12 per cent. He said: "It is our objective to double it again in the next five years."

Moss Bros, whose divisions include Cecil Gee, Savoy Tailors Guild and The Suit Company, achieved its profits growth on turnover up 20 per cent at £36.07 million. With earnings per share up 66 per cent to 12.63p, the interim dividend has been increased by 67 per cent to 5p, due November 7.

Mr Gee said that by focusing on menswear, Moss Bros had been able to build up "the best team in British menswear". The company had "the culture where ideas can be developed, discussed and implemented".

Moss Bros has 115 shops and plans to open a further 10 in the second half of the year, with a total of 150 projected by the end of 1997.

Mr Gee said that despite the strong

£15.3 million cash position Moss Bros did not favour a share buyback. "Our philosophy is to invest aggressively in our current business."

In a low inflation environment the market remained challenging, he said. In response, the company was reviewing its sources of supply and seeking to increase its market share.

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## Manweb

### Shareholder information update

## Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

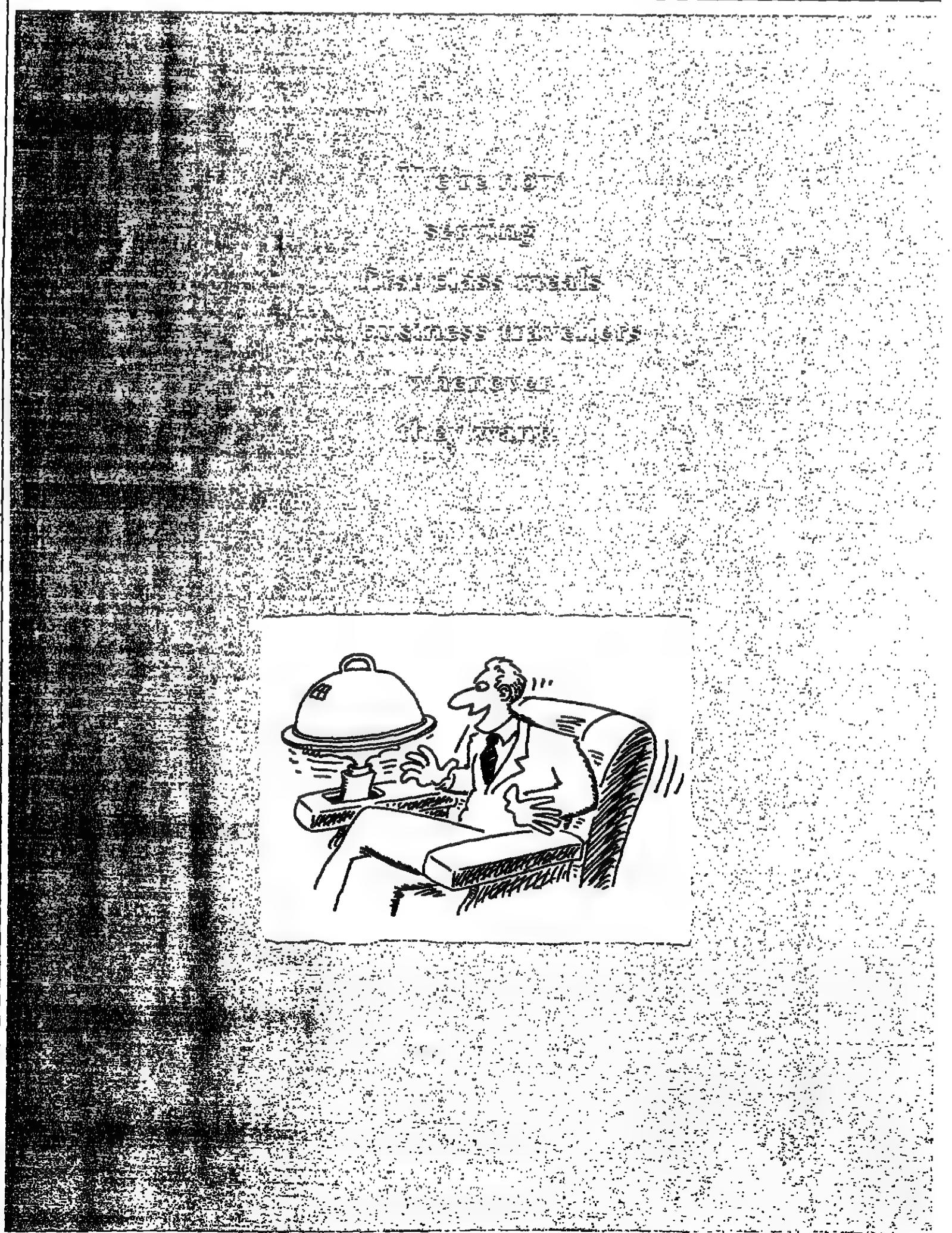
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(Welsh language)

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STOCK MARKET

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

# Investors plug in to Recs as Southern leads the way

EXCITEMENT in the electricity sector and buying in the futures market lifted trading that began the day subdued by gathering downbeat news over the economy.

While the agreed bid by National Power for Southern Electric sparked the sector at the start of trading, more fundamental malaise had poured on to an already lacklustre market from the purchasing managers' index.

The survey, which reached its lowest point for nearly three years, showed that companies were meeting their orders from existing stocks rather than from fresh production, suggesting that demand is weak and that further periods of slack production loom.

But the afternoon session responded to buying activity in futures. Interest in the derivatives market sent investors largely to utilities and pharmaceuticals.

In New York, a moderate rebound staged by the Dow Jones industrial average proved a little too mild to stimulate much action this side of the Atlantic.

The FT-SE closed at 3,520.2, up 12 points on the day after the index had fallen back in early trading.

The 3,500 mark is proving a strong resistance line, with marketmakers predicting it will hold tight and should enable the index to climb to 3,555 in the short term. Volume was modest at 586.9 million shares.

Shares in Southern Electric fell 10p to 96p after National Power made an agreed £10.10 per share bid, valuing the regional electricity company at £2.3 billion.

More than 25 million shares in Southern were traded although the price hit its peak early in the session, the move by National Power having been heavily signalled over the weekend.

The share price of the generator, which also announced plant sales worth more than £1 billion, tumbled 12p to 903p, slightly clouded by fears that the bid could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Elsewhere in the sector, London Electricity was also swept up in strong bid speculation and added 5p to 930p, with 1.2 million shares changing hands. Yorkshire Electric rose 10p to 89p, while Midlands Electricity, the subject of a £1.95 billion agreed bid,



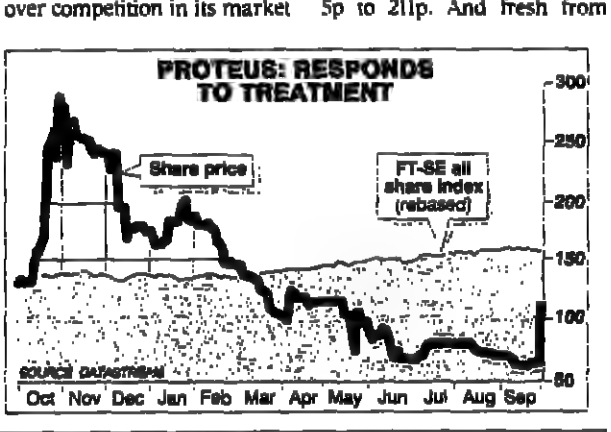
Power shares surged after National Power's bid for Southern

place despite reporting a 21 per cent rise in third quarter earnings. As concern persisted over overseas risks, the shares slipped 4p to 261p.

Lynx, the computer software company, eased 1p to 51p after announcing a £22 million agreed bid for Visteo, a computer services company. The bid-for company gained 1p to 10p. BSKYB continued its re-

cent strong run, spurred by its inclusion in the FT-SE index on enthusiasm that new technology will boost its sports coverage and that it could show all Premiership football matches. The shares hit an all-time high of 206p, moving up 14p on the day.

Manchester United enjoyed a burst of interest ahead of its results today and gained 5p to 21p. And fresh from



**COMMODITIES**

**LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE**

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Cocoa	100lb	1,010.00	+0.25
Gold	1000g	352.25	+0.10
Silver	1000g	15.15	+0.05
Platinum	1000g	1,100.00	+0.50
Palladium	1000g	1,200.00	+0.25
Crude Oil	1000bbl	25.10	+0.10
Heating Oil	1000bbl	22.50	+0.05
Gas	10000cuft	1.10	+0.01

**MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION**

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Beef	100lb	1.10	+0.01
Lamb	100lb	1.20	+0.01
Pork	100lb	1.30	+0.01
Chicken	100lb	1.40	+0.01
Duck	100lb	1.50	+0.01
Goose	100lb	1.60	+0.01

**LIFE OPTIONS**

Series	Call	Put
Series 100	1.10	1.10
Series 200	1.20	1.20
Series 300	1.30	1.30
Series 400	1.40	1.40
Series 500	1.50	1.50

**FFSE INDEX**

Series	Call	Put
Series 100	1.10	1.10
Series 200	1.20	1.20
Series 300	1.30	1.30
Series 400	1.40	1.40
Series 500	1.50	1.50

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success on the football field with Tottenham Hotspur's figures last week, the market is looking for Alan Sugar to pull creditable results from Amstrad on Thursday when his computer company reports. The shares moved up 6p to 251p.

Moss Bros, the specialist menswear retailer and clothing hire group, added 7p to 570p after strong half-year profits from the specialist in formal wear outshine many recent reports from the clothing retail sector.

There was some strengthening in Cable and Wireless as Lord Young, the chairman, quashed anticipation that the telecoms group would move to demerge any of its operations. C&W advanced 5p to 422p.

Sun Alliance went against the generally susceptible insurance sector and gained 1p to 35p. Zeneca, the doyen of big target excitement, benefited from a general interest in pharmaceuticals, stimulated by recent consolidation moves by the larger players and linked development deals with biotech companies. It added 30p to £11.75 with 1.8 million shares being traded.

Dealers said that Zeneca had also benefited from a short squeeze, with traders having concentrated on the other main pharmaceutical stocks recently, and that its price was marked up accordingly. SmithKline Beecham, which announced it had received market clearance in the US for a drug for testosterone replacement therapy, added 4p to 64p, while Glaxo Wellcome, which is ex-dividend, improved 1p to 768p.

GLT-EDGED: There was some encouragement taken from the economic pointers to slow growth. The shorter end of the yield curve strengthened, while the longer end attracted less interest. However, the activity was muted and dealers said that the market was still reeling from last week's poor performance in the Government's gilt auction. The shorter eight to 13-year gilt moved up 11 ticks to 697.20.

NEW YORK: Shares, trading on the first day of the last quarter of 1995, were lower at midday as efforts to break into positive territory ran aground despite a rally in bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average was 16.26 points down at 4,772.82. Declining shares led advances about 11 to nine.

London Financial Futures

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	3510.0	3520.0	3500.0	3510.0	7714
FT-SE 250	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
Three Month Sterling	92.42	92.48	92.42	92.48	14773
Three Month Eurodollar	92.42	92.48	92.42	92.48	14773
Three Month Euro DMI	92.42	92.48	92.42	92.48	14773
Long Gilt	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
Japanese Govt Bond	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
German Govt Bond	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
Three Month ECU	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
Euro Swiss Franc	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0
Italian Govt Bond	1200.0	1210.0	1190.0	1200.0	0

**MONEY RATES (%)**

Term	Rate
1 month	5.50
3 months	5.50
6 months	5.50
12 months	5.50

**EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)**

Term	Rate
1 month	5.50
3 months	5.50
6 months	5.50
12 months	5.50

**GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)**

Commodity	Price
Gold	352.25
Silver	15.15
Platinum	1,100.00
Palladium	1,200.00

**STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**

Term	Rate
Spot	1.50
1 month	1.50
3 months	1.50
6 months	1.50
12 months	1.50

**STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**

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Term	Rate
Spot	1.50
1 month	1.50
3 months	1.50
6 months	1.50
12 months	1.50

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 4772.82 (+16.26)

S&P Composite 582.44 (+0.97)

London:

Nikkei Average 17739.44 (+173.23)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 9724.98 (+78.84)

Amsterdam:

Euro Index 465.12 (+1.14)

Sydney:

ASX 2137.7 (+2.08)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2335.02 (+17.98)

Singapore:

SEAC 2120.19 (+0.16)

Brussels:

General 7381.02 (+9.37)

Paris:

CAC-40 1780.71 (+7.64)

Zurich:

SIX 696.00 (+5.60)

London:

FT 30 2607.0 (+6.0)

FT 100 3520.2 (+12.0)

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FTSE 100 3520.2 (+12.0)



## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Counting on a decent meal

SPARE a thought for number crunchers heaving away on weekend takeovers. Those involved in National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern Electric testify that it's tough finding a private dining room in the City on a Sunday.

A famished banker tells how NatPower and Southern Electric finalised their negotiations on Sunday as dusk fell, and, at 9.15pm, ten of them decided to dine together by way of celebration. "You can only eat so many boardroom sandwiches," a mole tells me. Not even the Savoy could set up a private room at that hour, however. So the weary ten wandered home without dinner.

Could they have tried to book using the bid code names? Any restaurant hearing that, "Puffin" (NatPower) wants a private room to entertain "Skate" (Southern Electric) must have thought the caller was barking mad. Undoubtedly, booking a room in the name of Rothschilds and/or Schroeders would have opened any kitchen in town.

### Protest defused

THE French Companies Investors Show at London's Merchant Centre yesterday got off to a real bang. No sooner had exhibitors set out their stalls when news reached London that France had detonated its second nuclear device. The CND was incensed. But exhibition organisers, Glenda Boswell, weren't having all her hard work ruined by unruly noise. "I went out and faced the CND," the plucky Glenda tells me. "I offered them a glass of wine. Initially, they said yes, until I pointed out it would be French. So they settled for coffee."



"Are we sure it's the right way up?"

### United...

TONY YEOAH, Leeds United Football Club's prodigious Ghanaian goalscorer, is giving a local food company a helping hand, but they don't mind a bit. When Yeoah revealed his weakness for Yorkshire puddings earlier this year (and suggested the puds might be responsible for his phenomenal goal-scoring rate), Nordale Foods of Leeds offered Yeoah two giant puddings for every goal he scored, plus one for the rest of the team. Last week Nordale prepared to deliver 120 puddings to the Elland Road stadium. But wait a minute - better make that 132 puddings. Yeoah scored again on Saturday.

### ...divided

NOW that Swiss Bank Corporation and SG Warburg are united, they're supposed to be as happy as ducks in water. But the individual spirit beats on. On the Solent at the weekend, the annual City Yacht Race was won by Henderson Administration, whose Michael Robinson, Mark Lund and Ian Buckley crossed the line first, beating Barings Asset Management into second place. The "merged" house entered two yachts. Third came SBC, and fourth... SG Warburg.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# Growth is the best way to reduce social dislocation

In the second of two articles, Robin Marris gives solutions to 'low-ed' unemployment

Last week, in discussing the worldwide problem of an undereducated underclass, we saw that surprisingly strong theoretical arguments could be made to link unskilled unemployment with global free trade. This case, as rather dangerously popularised by Sir James Goldsmith, has been expanded with economic sophistication by Adrian Wood of the Institute for Development Studies in Brighton.

Some of Wood's critics disagree with his methods but his broad conclusion - that the structure of global trade has created a bias towards unskilled employment in the rich industrial countries - seems broadly consistent with both theory and experience. But Wood's theory is not the whole answer. There is, for example, a serious problem of timing, as pointed out by Robert Solow, the Nobel Prize-winning American economist. "The troubles of the underclass began in the early 1970s, many years before the onset of the present phase of intense trade with developing countries. So trade is not a sufficient explanation on its own. The truth almost certainly lies in an interaction of causes."

As discussed last week, the worldwide slowdown in growth from 1975 was the event that coincided most closely with the start of troubles in the underclass. This slowdown is clearly visible in the chart, which shows how US growth in the past 20 years has fallen far below its pre-1975 trend, and how the leading European countries stopped catching up with US living standards from then.

This coincidence suggests that slow growth, no doubt exacerbated by world trade patterns, was and still is the primary cause of mass unemployment. Wood has suggested an interesting version of this view. "In the period from 1980 to 1975, the world experienced strong investment... almost entirely within an economic enclave we now call the North. All classes in the North prospered, including low-eds. After 1975, Northern investors... went into emerging markets. So we got the effects of a growth slowdown as part and parcel of the same process, which also produced my trade effects."

This is an intriguing perception, but it still seems to underplay the growth slowdown, by making it a secondary consequence of globalisation. I think that slowing growth had its own primary causes. It is now clear that the problems of the post-1975 period has not just been slow growth but very unstable growth. We also now know that there has been a permanent increase in the cost and risk of investment. The most obvious indicator is the long-term real interest rate.

In the golden age from 1980 to 1975 this averaged between 2 per cent and 3 per cent, which was also the typical

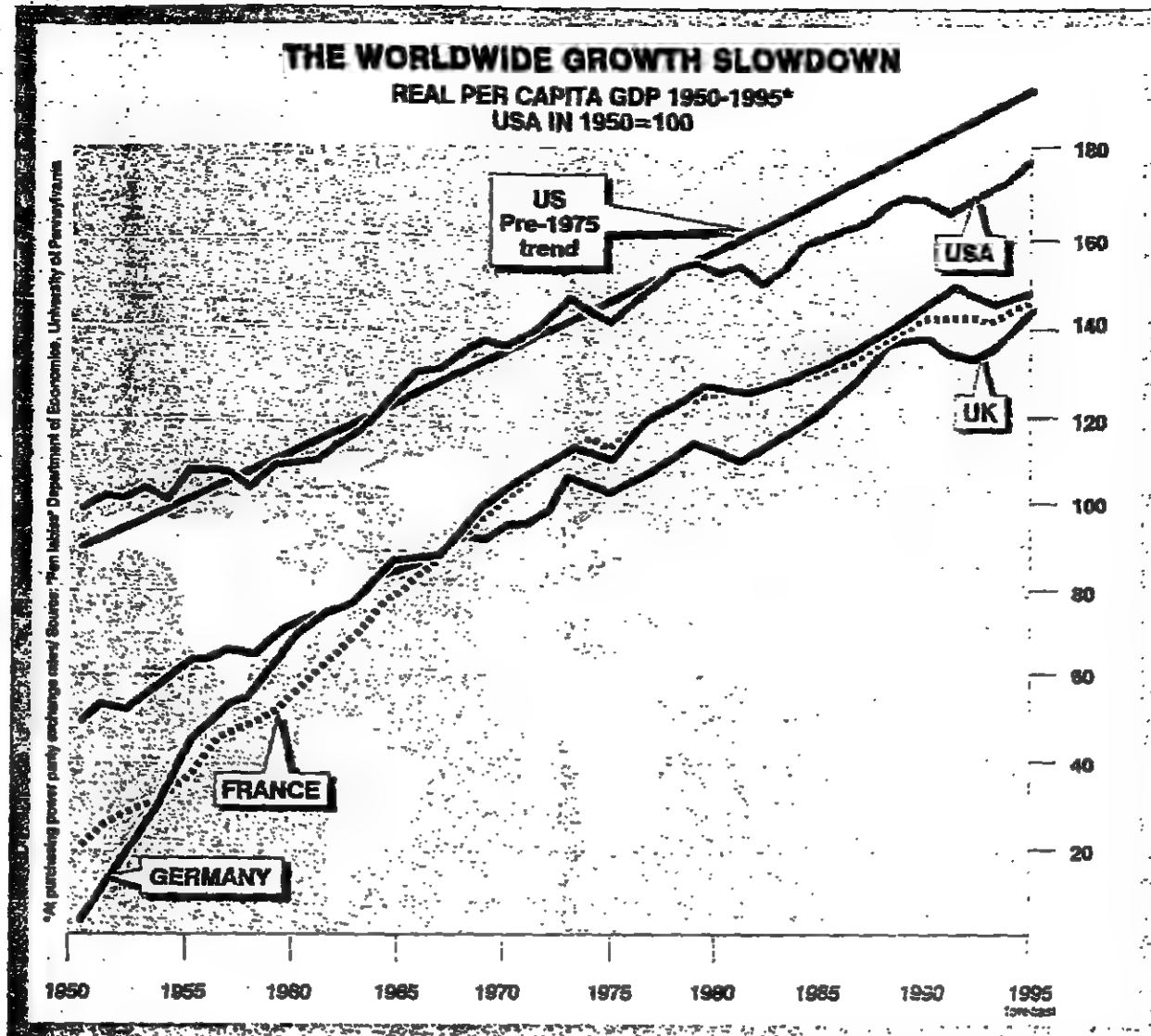


figure during the previous hundred years. Since the late 1970s, however, real interest rates have typically been twice as high. Nobody seems to have an adequate explanation of why real interest rates are still double the healthy norm. 20 years after the first oil shock and the great world inflation. But is it not possible that what went up could be made to come down? The trouble began with the monetary reaction to oil-shocks inflation and then continued into the late 1980s. From there, I believe, the bad weather has been maintained by the globalisation of financial markets, which has helped to destabilise bond prices. Governments have then piled petrol on Ossa by using interest rates for demand management. Short-term bond fluctuations, by increasing risk, have pushed real long-term interest rates up.

In sum, the plight of low-eds can be blamed not only on trade, but also on the globalisation of finance and government monetary policies which have caused increased risk and high real interest rates. This is not the way the matter is usually put in current discussions. One reason, I suspect, is that the situation has a hidden political twist.

Helping the low-eds is much closer to a zero-sum game than many care to admit. We are in a world that is meritocratic in a real sense. There are people who through genes, family, education, willpower, talent and luck are doing well. There are others who are not. A better distinction might be between low-eds and "all-rights".

In Europe, the employed all-rights do not give enough work to low-eds, because their wages have failed to adjust downwards. Instead, the all-rights income is diverted into taxes to pay for unemployment benefits. This means that many well-educated people, if

moved by self-interest, will prefer the "American" model, in which the low-eds continue to work but for very low wages. But isn't the American model also more efficient? Surely society benefits if non-employment is reduced?

This proposition is not as obvious as it seems. First, as discussed last week, even America has suffered a sharp increase in low-ed non-employment. Secondly, we have to consider the preferences of the low-eds. Suppose (which admittedly is not sure) that low-eds prefer being unemployed on income support than fully employed at low wages. They will see the "European" model as the lesser of two evils. Only if we consider the preferences of the "high-eds" to be morally superior

### Many see the dangers of crime from an impoverished underclass

rior to the well-being of the low-eds, as they themselves perceive it, can we say that society as a whole is better off in one mode than the other.

But to give absolute priority to the interests of the all-rights means rejecting the democratic principle of one-man, one-vote, as well as the economic principle of Pareto optimality, which says that a change in economic conditions is only an improvement if it makes somebody better off without making anyone worse off.

Some all-rights do not recognise any such problem. If you are a tough-minded all-right, you will want to get the low-eds off the streets and working for you and yours at nicely modest wages. Quoting fears of runaway costs of the Welfare State, you advocate

workfare and all that. If you are Sir James Goldsmith, you also throw in trade protection. What you do not do is concede that the low-eds' plight is closely related to government economic policies and the operation of financial markets.

But many all-rights see the danger to themselves from crime and other consequences of an impoverished underclass. Others sense that, in today's rapidly changing world, the all-right of today may become the low-ed or tomorrow. Some even have a true social conscience.

For such "soft-hearted" all-rights, there are really three options: to revive adequate economic growth, to accept the costs of a permanent Welfare State, or to subsidise low-ed employment. Many supposed free-marketisers surprisingly seem to favour the third option. With taxpayer subsidies, low-eds can be given work at reasonable wages, and the long-term unemployed can be helped on the road to longer-term employability. All-rights still have a tax burden but retain the advantage of cheap labour. I admire the motivation and ingenuity of some of these schemes, but I see them as palliatives.

The welfare alternative is unattractive and costly, but perhaps less so than many believe. Much contemporary research suggests that the future burdens of the Welfare State have been exaggerated, especially for Britain. For example, the Rowntree Foundation report by John Hills has made the following calculation: "If benefit levels were to keep up with overall living standards, the net effects of built-in upward forces such as population ageing on the public finances over the next 50 years would add up to 5 per cent of GDP."

By contrast, in the past decade, British adult male all-

## Czechs switch to life with a convertible

Colin Narbrough on new look for the former Soviet-ruled region's currency

Vaclav Klaus, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, must be forgiven his arrogance over the breathtaking transformation of his economy that has this week allowed it to make its currency convertible.

From Sunday, the koruna, already the hardest of the central European currencies, became the first of the former Soviet-dominated region's units to go convertible.

The new law, passed by the Czech parliament last week, provides for full convertibility for current account transactions, such as import and export business, and modest convertibility for capital account transactions. Although Czechs are still not allowed to make portfolio investments abroad, as the government wants to avoid speculative activity, they can make direct investments abroad in property and take as much currency out of the country as they wish as tourists.

The removal of the 100,000 koruna (£2,400) cap on the amount of foreign exchange Czechs could take abroad has been treated as something of a joke.

Low Czech wages meant that the old currency limit was already far too much for most people. It was equivalent to half a year's salary for many workers. Delivering the SBC Warburg annual lecture in the City last Thursday, Mr Klaus, who, as Finance Minister, steered the Czech economy before becoming Prime Minister, proudly paraded his achievements on the currency front in the six years since the collapse of communism.

He accepted that the "wind can blow stronger than before" as the Czechs remove barriers to trade and capital flows. But he stressed that his country was no Mexico. There was no Czech national debt, no budget deficit and it was not issuing Mexican-type Tesoro bonds.

The return to currency convertibility has been greeted by the Czechs as a sign that the country has finally regained the status it enjoyed in the inter-war

years as a thriving economy with attractive, convertible money.

In his lecture, Mr Klaus sought to demolish most of the theories Western experts offered the Czechs on how to switch to the market system. And devaluation, the route now being taken by Poland and Hungary, was one he was not going down, whatever the experts said.

He pointed out that the koruna was last devalued in 1990 and he claimed the world record for holding the currency absolutely stable in nominal terms for the past 57 months, which gave it a "creeping revaluation" in real terms. This stability, he said, provided a key cushion of the transformation process.

With the Czech Republic preparing to apply for membership of the European Union early next year, Mr Klaus is bent on making the koruna one of the hard core currencies.

Czech growth should hit an annual 4 per cent this year and the government is

budgeting for 4.8 per cent next. Mr Klaus remains

happy about inflation, which was running at an annual 9 per cent in August.

While high by the West's cur-

rent low standards, it is, however, far lower than in most former communist economies. Unemployment, scourge of western Europe, was running at just 3 per cent in the Czech Republic in August.

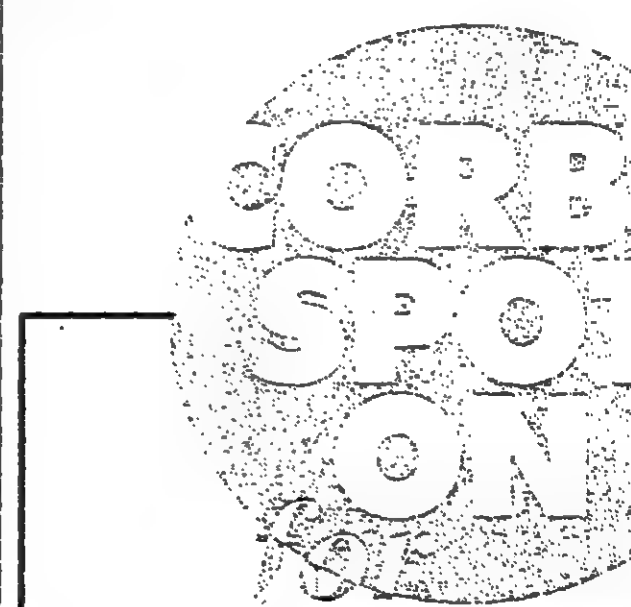
David Lubin, HSBC Markets' economic adviser on emerging markets, sees a key element of the convertibility law in the power given to the central bank to impose controls to slow the potentially inflationary inflows of capital, rather than having to cut interest rates. With such controls in place, the monetary reins can safely be tightened to curb inflation.

The measures are part of the Czechs' plan to become a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the rich nations' think-tank, in the near future. And Mr Klaus hopes to follow that up with an application for EU membership early next year.

6 Czechs see it as a sign they have regained inter-war years status

The alternative is to do something about the root causes of underclass unemployment. These do seem to lie not in any one single factor but in the interaction of globalisation, high real interest rates and inadequate growth. Globalisation is here to stay, but if the North had lower interest rates and faster growth, the labour market problems it causes would be much reduced and palliatives would not be needed. The best remedy to social dislocation, underemployment and rising welfare costs is not protectionism but a global revival of brisk, stable, green growth.

Robin Marris is Emeritus Professor of Economics at London University.



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### Bolder bank

From M. J. Hughes  
Sir, How refreshing to see the senior management of Dalva Bank accept responsibility for the actions of one of their staff that led to huge losses, and to agree to forgo their bonuses and accept cuts in salary. What a contrast with the senior management insisted on taking their bonuses, leaving innocent investors to carry the losses.  
Yours faithfully,  
M. J. HUGHES,  
Walnut Cottage,  
Maidenhead, Berks.

### Further warning on Lloyd's failures

From Mr Malcolm Boston  
Sir, The resignation of Mrs Rosalind Gilmore as soon after her appointment as Director of Lloyd's Regulatory Services - no doubt after considerable heart-searching on her part - comes as a blow to external names whose cause she undoubtedly championed. But make no mistake. It should also serve as a jolt to everyone, not only names, that the Treasury Select Committee's recent report containing serious criticisms about the existing regulatory arrangements and other failures at Lloyd's clearly has not been taken on board.

Further, it should serve as a warning to Lloyd's not to take for granted the acquiescence of names and their representatives in the processes of "consultation" over the preparation of a document which might lead to a settlement. And they should pay careful attention to what names' representatives are requesting if they want it to stand a chance of being accepted.  
Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM BOSTON,  
13 Trumpington Road,  
Cambridge.

### Where blame lies

From Mr Adrian Cosker  
Sir, Eddie George's enthusiasm for interest rate rises is such that it is easy to cast him as the scapegoat for Britain's sluggish growth rate, and Kenneth Clarke as the popular hero who has stood up to him in the cause of expansion. The truth is that the Government, not the Bank of England, should take the blame. Desperate to restore credibility after the ERM fiasco, it chose as its overriding economic objective an inflation target so stringent it was only likely to be met by slowing growth to a snail's pace, and charged the Bank's governor with attempting to achieve that target and nothing else.

It is the architects of this blinkered approach to economic policymaking who are responsible for the slow growth, the unemployment, depressed living standards and budgetary problems that have resulted, not those given the brief to carry it out.  
Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN COSKER,  
Head of Economics,  
The Knights Templar School,  
Park Street, Baldock, Herts.

### No to minimum wage

From Mrs Anne E. Minto  
Sir, It is difficult to envisage the types of businesses that the Labour Party has consulted (Business wants talks with Labour on minimum wage, September 25) to draw the conclusion that the imposition of a national minimum wage would not be opposed by industry. Engineering employers in

the UK do not want to see a minimum wage introduced. Employers are concerned especially at the prospects of increased costs and higher inflation which would result. At the recent TUC conference, the AEEU has already called for the maintenance of wage differentials in the engineering sector. Furthermore, subsequent increases in a minimum wage could raise expectations for higher paid employees in the

engineering sector in future wage negotiations. Those groups of employers who would be directly affected by a minimum wage literally cannot afford to be so complacent as this survey would suggest.  
Yours faithfully,  
ANNE E. MINTO,  
Deputy Director-General  
EEF,  
Broadway House,  
Tothill Street,  
SW1.







## Women lead the field in working from home

By BRIAN COLLETT

WOMEN starting businesses at home are usually younger than their male counterparts and more creative. Men stay in their jobs longer and more stay in the same line when starting up at home.

The conclusions are drawn from a survey published by *Home Run*, a magazine produced for home workers by Andrew James and his wife, Sophie Chalmers — at home in Hammersmith, west London. About 2,500 people took part in the survey, conducted after 16,000 inquiries about home working were made to the magazine and Tolson Messager, the insurance broker.

Most women starting businesses at home are aged between 35 and 45, have expected less from their previous careers, and therefore work at something else. Mr James says: "The old man becomes a consultant in the oil industry. It happened to me. I was in computers but found I was hopeless as a consultant in the computer industry. Also, women in a partnership often become the driving force."

One shock from the survey is the number found to have invalidated home insurance by installing a business without contacting their insurers and to have no cover for helpers. Mr James cautions: "If a boy comes in from next door to stuff envelopes and falls down the stairs, he is not automatically covered."

The survey revealed two types — those who make a decision to go into business, buy the technology, work hard and succeed, and those who do it because they cannot get a job, lack enthusiasm and fail.

Interestingly, 80 per cent want to stay independent, chiefly because they like the flexibility, but many complain of loneliness and the need to work so hard. Surprisingly, only a few disabled people and women returners set up at home. 50 per cent use uncomfortable chairs that they would refuse at work, and many have a dedicated office — only 2 per cent fit the stereotype of working from the kitchen table.

A final "terrifying" statistic was that more than a third allowed their children to play unchecked on their computers. "How would the clients feel?" asks Mr James. "Would you allow the cleaner to do that in your office?" More details about working from home are available on 0181-946 9244.

## David Askham visits a man whose boyhood hobby has developed into a successful second career

Richard Head is on target to make a success of his small, craft business launched only two years ago. He is one of a rare breed: a bowyer and fletcher.

Based in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, he believes he is one of only four people in the country handcrafting traditional English longbows, working full time at what was originally a hobby.

A quantity surveyor for 30 years and a keen archer since boyhood, when he was made redundant he developed his leisure interest into a viable small business.

Mr Head had been an active archer since the 1960s, shooting modern high-technology bows with his wife and family at contests around the country. His first business lead came from his personal interest in the traditional English longbow.

With several other enthusiasts, he discovered how hard it was to obtain the type he wanted. Hardly anyone was making them and the few available tended to be old Victorian bows, tailored to the height and reach of the individual.

"I thought I would have a go at making my own, which I did successfully and friends saw my product and asked me to make traditional longbows for them."

That was about 15 years ago and it was not long before I was producing quite a lot of them. My hobby suddenly grew considerably."

He launched his own business in a small workshop and West Wiltshire Training and Enterprise



Export aim: Richard Head has orders from the US and Australia

Council helped in the early stages with business training courses on book-keeping, marketing and selling techniques. "Their seminars and lectures were very useful," he says. "They also helped me to qualify for a weekly £50 grant

which ran for six months and that was a great help, financially, while I was building up my client base. After two years my business has grown quite successfully."

He concedes that his craft will never be big business. "As I am supplying a minority sport, there will never be a huge market, which explains why there are only about three or four full-time bowyers and fletchers in the country."

Nevertheless, his production of 150 longbows last year looks likely to increase with an expanding export market. He hopes to establish a retail outlet in North America next year and has been invited to conduct a lecture tour there.

"I have built up a useful export trade worldwide, particularly in Germany and France, where I supply shops in Dorset and Paris. Other orders have gone to Australia, Canada and the United States. There is a good following in the US where they produce a magazine purely for the longbow archer, so I am hopeful that I will be expanding my business there."

Top of the range bows are made entirely of yew and cost about £300. Laminated bows retail at about half that price. Apart from traditional longbow arrow designs, Mr Head has discovered a demand for replica medieval arrows, modelled on those recovered from the Mary Rose, King Henry VIII's flagship, which he has forged by a specialist in Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Apart from these and the leather quivers he makes and which are made locally, everything else is handcrafted by him in his new workshop in Meltham.

Richard Head is on 01225 790452.

## From stump grinders to service stations at the franchise exhibition

By RODNEY HOBSON

BUDDING entrepreneurs who are considering starting their own business will have the chance to break into tree-stump grinding this week. Other choices include window renovation, wall panelling, vehicle security, property management and music for the under-fives.

For the less down to earth, there is always fantasy and science fiction retailing. These are among the 130 franchisers taking part in the autumn National Franchise Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham, from Friday until Sunday.

Sir Bernard Ingham, former press secretary at 10 Downing Street and now president of the British Franchise Association, will open the exhibition, which is expected to attract more than 10,000 visitors. It is sponsored by the BFA. Visitors will be offered an entry into franchising for fees ranging from £5,000 to £500,000.

Among the exhibitors is NatWest UK's franchise section. Peter Stern, its senior manager, said: "NatWest's franchise managers share a total of 35 years' experience working in the longest-established franchise section among UK banks. Franchising brings to the potential investor proven business know-how supported by a track record of trading performance which has been tried and tested."

The exhibition has attracted some of the biggest names in franchising including McDonald's, Prontaprint, Interlink Express, Dyno-Rod, Kall-Kwik and Securicor Pony Express (SPE), where Lorna Wright has become its first female franchisee.

Among newcomers is BP, which launched its Harmony service station franchise a year ago. It now has 20 sites in operation and hopes

to add at least 30 each year until the total reaches 200. The cost of a franchise varies according to the site but starts at £30,000 for a ten-year agreement.

Franchising has grown rapidly over the past ten years to a turnover last year of £5.5 billion. It provides 200,000 jobs. Free advice will be available at the exhibition from law firms, consultants and high street banks. Seminars will be held on legal, commercial and practical aspects of becoming a franchisee.

There will be a session each day for established businesses that are considering becoming franchisees. The exhibition is open from 10am until 5pm on Friday and Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday. Admission is £10 at the door. Discounted tickets at £5 each or £14 for two are available in advance on the franchise hotline: 01992 522638.



In business: Lorna Wright, the first female franchisee at SPE

### BRIEFINGS

Industry has replaced its smaller firms council with a small and medium enterprises council to place greater emphasis on the needs of growing enterprises.

TSB has cut its fixed-term lending rates for businesses by up to 0.7 per cent. The new rates vary from 8.3 per cent to 10.7 per cent depending on the amount borrowed and the term of the loan. Special rates are available for doctors and farmers.

A national investment fund to give small businesses long-term loans for essential projects has been proposed to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, for the November Budget by the UK Industrial Group, which represents 4,000

manufacturers. The group, based in Aldershot, Hampshire, has also asked for the abolition of capital gains tax — to encourage the formation of new ventures — and 100 per cent capital allowances for financing plant, equipment and new buildings to stimulate industrial investment.

A group that was set up to help

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### THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

is running a business advice roadshow in east Cleveland this week to publicise support services in the area. The roadshow will be on Skelton Industrial estate today, Redcar and Cleveland, tomorrow, Seroo car park, Guisborough, on Thursday and Somerset super-market, Saltburn, on Friday. Details from Business Link Teesside or Langborough Borough Council.

The Confederation of British

Industries

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## THEATRE

Who said it wouldn't last? Ten years on, *Les Misérables* still confounds the critics



## POP

The spirit was willing at Jethro Tull's big London show, but the singing was decidedly dodgy

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 1

A new Centre for Performing Arts on the South Bank? Lord Young launches his big idea



## MUSIC 2

The avant-garde master composer Luciano Berio celebrates his 70th birthday with the LSO

Ten years ago, Benedict Nightingale was one of the few critics to love *Les Misérables*. He still does

# Turkey that laid the golden egg

When *A Chorus Line* became the longest-running show in Broadway history back in 1983, its producers threw a bash that made the Great Gatsby or Citizen Kane's hospitality look like tea and Spam sandwiches in the church hall. At the end, I recall no fewer than 330 of those who had performed in international productions of the musical singing and dancing all at once on the Shubert Theatre stage in their top hats and spangled coats. Next Sunday, the British impresario Cameron Mackintosh will be doing rather the same for *Les Misérables* in a more spectacular place, the Albert Hall, and, in my view, with even better reason.

Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the opening of what still seems one of theatrical history's most implausible successes. Who would have thought a sung-through pop opera about poverty, crime, rehabilitation, law, mercy and French revolutionary politics would go on to play in 30 countries, from Iceland to the Philippines, Argentina to Hungary, and take 500 million and rising at the world's box-offices? In 1985, who could have been confident that Boublil and Schönberg's musical would even manage to move the mile west from the Barbican to the Palace?

Not the critics, that was for sure. There were a few exceptions — Michael Coveney, Sheridan Morley, Clive Hirschorn and, let me admit it, myself in *The New York Times* — but most of the reviews were dire. *Les Misérables* was dubbed *The Glums*, a hopelessly melodramatic travesty of the majestic Hugo: "a witless and synthetic entertainment", "a lurid panorama", "stands in the same relation to the original as a singing telegram to an epic".

Well, all reviewers have their moans, and occasionally their beams. I have just been punished for an iffy notice of *Terry Johnson's Dead Funny*, which was acclaimed by most of my colleagues, by seeing it return in triumph to the West End. But anybody who was at the Barbican on October 8, 1985, should have sensed that *Les Mis* was going to enthrall those who had not prepared for its arrival by trudging through the book. As the piece reached its climax, the bond between stage and stalls be-



Citizens with soul: ten years on, *Les Misérables* still has the power to inspire wonder, and appeal to the higher echelons of the human spirit

came eerily, almost magically intimate. I vividly remember glancing at the stranger on my right, and seeing a face that reminded me of the earthlings in *Cloze Encounters*, mouths gaping at the great spaceship landed. I rather suspect I looked that way too.

I have now seen the show three times, most recently last week, and on each occasion it has made a successful assault not only on my eyes and ears, but on a part of the self sophisticated critics don't care to admit possessing. That is a sense of wonder. When people say an entertainment has

"soul", they usually mean that someone is making a lot of noise on the top registers of the scale in an excessively lachrymose way. But *Les Mis* involves the higher echelons of the human spirit, and makes a powerful appeal to them too.

A strong, driving story, superbly staged by Trevor Nunn and John Caird, obviously goes a long way towards explaining the show's success. But what makes it the second mile is, I suspect, an unfashionable faith in the existence of goodness. Contemporary cynicism says that a brutalised criminal cannot be converted

by someone else's generosity into the sort of chap who tends prostitutes, adopts orphans, sacrifices his safety and happiness to others, and refuses to hurt or even curb his most relentless foe; and contemporary cynicism is probably right. But each of the three Valjeans I have seen has made me believe it.

Certainly, the latest one does so. It is wonderful to watch Phil Cavill, a baffled, bovine figure when he emerges from 19 years in the chain-gang, shake himself morally awake and, without any hint of sanctimony or sentimentality,

grow in gravity and unassuming strength. He is lucky in his supporting cast, too, especially in Michael McCarthy, a hard, dark Javert who seems capable of destroying a hundred Valjeans and thinking it no more than his civic duty. And although the huddled masses might make their weather-beaten cheeks look less as if they have been derisively daubed with shoe polish, the human swirl still thrills, as do John Napier's sets, especially the two vast wedges of debris that shunt in from the wings and, like a pair of rumting space-monsters, ram together

to become the Paris slums in microcosm.

Sunday's concert version at the Albert Hall is well justified. *Les Mis* deserves the Royal Philharmonic, 250 performers, and a finale in which Valjeans from 12 countries, Norway and Japan as well as Britain and America, will sing their way to an upbeat death. And with the London production expected to survive into the new millennium, and others going strong, the party is not just for the past. It celebrates a musical that will be valued as long as musicals exist.

## Hothouse for performers

A £100 million plan to give London a 'university of the arts' will be launched today, Simon Tait reports

Like the Festival of Britain, the proposed Centre for the Performing Arts, which could open on the same site (the South Bank, in London) in time for the festival's 50th anniversary in 2001, was floated over lunch in the Saville Club. The participants were Gavin Henderson, Principal of Trinity College of Music and chairman of the Arts Council's music panel, and Lord Young of Grafton.

"I thought we were meeting to discuss a shared home for two or three of the London orchestras," said Young, chairman of the London Philharmonic Trust. "Suddenly Gavin came across with this dazzlingly brilliant idea: a university of all the performing arts at the heart of a public arts centre."

The plan will be announced today: a multidisciplinary centre for the performing arts, based on Trinity but including faculties for dance, drama and opera. If all goes well it will open in part of the Shell Centre on the South Bank by 2000. It might also be home for the British Film Institute and two, or possibly three, of London's symphony orchestras. Even the Arts Council of England is being mentioned as a possible tenant.

"We would leapfrog the rest of the world and take the lead in performing arts training," Henderson says. "A collaborative venture is vital if we're going to provide our students with the training modern conditions demand, and particularly training in the new technology coming on stream, which no small college could afford to develop but which collectively we can." Developments in music theatre, orchestral management, cross-discipline production, technology, librarianship, marketing, electro-acoustic sound would all be encompassed.

"For years this country has needed something properly to launch our young performers and help them to fulfil their promise, and this would be it," says Young. "Can you imagine the atmosphere in the campus common rooms and the club Gavin proposes to open to the public? Electric. It will transform the South Bank Centre." The new institution would go into 330,000 square metres

of the L-shaped, ten-storey, downstream half of the Shell Centre. Informally, Henderson says, both Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, and John Gummer, at Environment, approve.

A £90,000 bid has gone to the Arts Council's Lottery Board to fund a feasibility study of the potential partnerships. Young believes the final cost could be £100 million.

Led by Trinity, discussions have already taken place with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), the National Film and Television School (NFTS), the BFI, National Opera Studios and others — with unanimous positive responses. Smaller organisations such as the British Music Information Centre, the South Arts electro-acoustic organisation, the Association of Professional Composers and the Society for the Promotion of New Music have also been consulted, and others are being approached.

However, all will depend on Shell and its plans for the building. It is not on the market but its sale is being "very actively considered" — and the company has agreed to the feasibility study.

Potential partners have alternative plans if the South Bank idea does not come off. LAMDA needs to find larger premises, said its chairman Luke Rittner, and it has a lottery proposal for the empty West Brompton Hospital. "But the idea of a cultural federation is exciting, with joint-user facilities. We are pursuing it with all our heart." The dance element could well be the London Contemporary Dance School, now at the Place Theatre, in Euston. "We are looking at new options, but this multidisciplinary route may well be the way to go for the future," said its general manager, Graham Marchant.

Nicholas Snowman, the South Bank chief executive who first mentioned the Shell Centre to Henderson, said: "We have long wanted something of this sort to happen. What it would give us is not only more music in the halls but the opportunity to work closely with a music college literally next door."

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**THE TIMES CINEMAS TOKEN 2**

## Rueing the lost cords

## POP

Jethro Tull  
Apollo, W6

Twenty years after the *Lice Age* of punk supposedly killed off the dinosaurs of progressive rock, a hoary old banister still stalks the earth. The line-up is impressive — a mastodon on drums, a youthful brontosaurus on bass, rickitars on multi-horned and stringed keyboards, a curious spawn of *pterodactyl* and *dodo* on guitar. And, at the front, velociraptor.

Ian Anderson is a brain with claws. This is the man who made the flute a lead instrument, and has kept it there for a generation. He tours incessantly — earlier this year he went out to maraud on behalf of his solo album, *Divinities*, and this Apollo gig was the last in the UK leg of a 13-month world plunder behind the Tull's new record, *Roots to Branches*. He can still write a tune that dazzles as it rocks. He can still play the flute, metal or wooden, in a way never copied, never bettered, because it is his way. He can still rip the throat out of a friend with a biter lyric.

Unfortunately, he can't sing any more. Perhaps the strain of the previous UK gigs had told, but at the Apollo his voice was up to maggots. It was sad to see this proud ruler of the primal forest arch his neck, fix those baleful eyes on the lighting rig, and miss by miles a note that should have been a gimme.

And, ultimately, this Tull gig tripped, stumbled and fell over Anderson's dodgy larynx. At times he was singing — OK, making vocal noises — in a



Ian Anderson: still giving the flute a good-rocking name

key that defied all logic. He could have cut his losses and changed the set. He could have dropped a few verses and blinded us with flute instead, or that intricate, charming acoustic guitar.

But no, Velociraptor was in the kitchen, coming for the children, rather elderly but still in awe, and he knew no other way to get them.

He almost snagged them a couple of times. An arched, disguised *Agua* at the end of the first half brought cheers of relief from an audience that, for the most part, had obviously not got round to buying *Roots to Branches* yet. This was a drawback, as most of the half had consisted of songs from it.

The second half was a trawl through the Tull back cata-

logue, with the emphasis on the loud ones. Anderson has written many delicate, folk-influenced songs, but they didn't really get a look in as Martin Lancelotti barre went into overdrive on guitar. Every prog-rock cliché was trotted out at full volume, blowing holes through songs that depend on powerful playing to succeed, not bombast.

It wasn't all disappointment. There was a searing *Aff God* to savour, a *Locomotive Breath* that Barre decorated rather than destroyed and, as a sop to the Tullites yearning for the quirky, a *Fat Man* that brought back the days when every fan of what we then called "real" music had a copy of *Stand Up* in their collection.

CHRIS CAMPING

CONCERTS: Berio's 70th birthday; and 'authentic' Bruckner

Luciano Berio was in the BBC's bad books a fortnight ago when a newly commissioned work for the *Proms* turned out to be a recycling of an old one. But Berio's defence rests on a compositional principle, that of evolving pre-existing material to create new works.

There was a classic example of this process in this concert given by the London Symphony Orchestra under Berio, to celebrate the composer's 70th birthday. His Piano Concerto II, subtitled *Echoing Curves*, was written in 1968. But it looked back to an earlier work for piano and 24 instruments called *Poema a cinque* to find (Berio's words) "a new sound" (1974), and Berio referred, in his programme note, to "a continuous transformation of that project".

The orchestral layout for the Concerto reversed convention, with the strings banked at the rear and on the right, and the

## Master of the rethink

LSO/Berio  
Barbican

wind on the conductor's left. Sitting in the leader's place was a clarinetist, with whom conductor and piano soloist (the immaculately fluent Andrea Lucchesini) shook hands. The work is like a rich fabric of glittering surface detail. Vertical harmonic events are of less significance than the horizontal sweep, which carries all before it. A mighty impressive yet engaging piece.

Similarly unconventional in its layout was the *Serenata per un Satellite* by Berio's erstwhile colleague Bruno Maderna. Twenty players sit roughly in a semi-circle. Chance is the motivating factor. Berio stood in front of them less like a conductor than like the moderator of a debate. Turning at whim to one or another player, he invited them to contribute to the discourse. The duration is indeterminate — anything from 4 to 12 minutes (this performance lasted seven). The satellite of the title refers to the whirling orbit traced in that time: another display of dazzling creativity.

In the first half, any recycling was of other composers: Boccherini in *Ritorno Notturno di Madrid*, and Schubert in *Rendering*. The LSO played spiritedly throughout.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Periodically convincing

LCP/Norrington  
Barbican

With his period-instrument orchestra, the London Classical Players, Roger Norrington has pressed on into the mainstream 19th-century orchestral repertoire, outstripping rival period-instrument directors in this respect. In a sense, you can't fail to make the core repertoire sound fresh, given the differences in balance and timbre afforded by an orchestra with the proportions and tools of the composer's own time. But a task such as interpreting Bruckner's Third Symphony requires far more than unusual timbres.

Not that these differences are unimportant, most notably in the balance in favour of brass over strings. This resulted in many exhilarating moments, especially in the doom-laden fanfares of the opening

movement and the spine-tingling descending brass scale in the *Scherzo*. And in many ways the period sonorities served to heighten the strangeness of the work.

But the slow movement tested the players' technical resources to the full, while Norrington flourished. He recovered some panache in the finale, but too often looked like a parody of a conductor, with sudden gestures geared to the moment rather than long-term considerations.

Much more successful was his attempt to match the kind of tempo allegedly preferred by Wagner for the overture to *Die Meistersinger*, which

brings the piece in at just over eight minutes. Those big moments swept past on a tidal wave of sound and the whole tone of the work was transformed into something more humorous, as would seem fitting to the theme of the opera.

The other item in the programme was Weber's *Konzertstück* in F minor for piano and orchestra, with Melvyn Tan (now of *Pride and Prejudice* fame) as the soloist. Tan played a restored fortepiano by one of the most important Viennese makers of the 19th century, Johann Streicher. It had a rich tone, though apparently an uneven action, but not even Tan's flamboyant playing could save the piece from itself.

TESS KNIGHTON





■ VISUAL ART 1

The irrepressible spirit of Africa revealed at the Royal Academy in its full glory for the first time



■ VISUAL ART 2

A long-hidden talent: the art of Winnifred Knights, famous for *The Deluge*, is aired in a new show

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

The superb draughtsmanship of Neo-Romantic Keith Vaughan is celebrated in a fine retrospective



■ TOMORROW

Not just a vocal gymnast: Mariah Carey on life in the bravura class of pop icons

Richard Cork on the Royal Academy's comprehensive survey of an entire continent's art

# Journey to the heart of Africa

Africa's electrifying impact on Western art, above all in the early years of the present century, has been not a blessing and a curse. Adventurous young painters and sculptors across Europe gained enormously from 'discovering' so-called 'primitive' art, and the great carvings of the African continent transformed the work they produced. 'I have felt my strongest artistic emotions,' Picasso once said, 'when suddenly confronted with the sublime beauty of sculptures executed by the anonymous artists of Africa.' He even declared that they were 'the most powerful and most beautiful things the human imagination has ever produced'. But the sheer magnitude of Africa's influence on European modernists has hindered a proper recognition of its achievement. We posit, even today, in seeing African work through the partial and distorted lens of the Western avant-garde.

It is time to put Picasso and his contemporaries to one side, and recognise that the art of Africa deserves to be seen and savoured in its own right. That is why the colossal and continually engrossing survey at the Royal Academy is so welcome. For the first time in this country, a comprehensive parade of work culled from the entire continent has been assembled in a magisterial manner. It amounts to an awesome spectacle. Visitors to the main suite of galleries at Burlington House find themselves embarking on an epic journey, and I defy anyone to emerge from it without a profound admiration for the images they have encountered along the way.

Surprisingly enough, the expedition begins in pre-dynastic Egypt, though not normally associated with the more southern mass of the continent, it is an unarguable part of Africa. The human figure was deified here, with extraordinary sophistication and delicacy, at a very early stage in recorded history. Egyptian art has its distinctive character, identifiable at once in all its fitness and gravity. But the female sex in Egyptian art, like the female sex in Greek art, lent by the female sex, may excite our expectations.

This exquisitely refined carving, tracing the lines of gossamer drapery clinging to the woman's body, has a sensuality far removed from the more austere form of male Egyptian statues. In this respect, it is close to the art produced across the rest of Africa. And the Egyptian room has another link with the rest of the continent in the exhibition: an equal mastery of miniature and monumental sculpture alike.

But as we move through to the East Africa section a momentous change is evident at once. The emphasis shifts from stone to wood, and all the carvers make us aware of their innate respect for the original material. The row of tall, slender figures dominating the room seem to grow out of tree-trunks. Attenuated and often badly decayed, they nevertheless sustain a sense of stubborn resilience.

Their undermonstrous dignity echoes the sober restraint of Egyptian carvings, but East African art is often quickened by playful humour as well. A high-backed chair's stool from Tanzania sprouts a head and arms, wittily announcing a desire to embrace the occupant. A drum turns out to be supported by a body with neat, conical breasts and bent legs. One seated figure even kicks his legs up in the air, driven apparently by an outburst of high spirits.

In the past, East Africa has often been overlooked. But recent intensive research has established that, in the area bordering Kenya and Tanzania, what Tom Phillips calls 'the whole adventure of humanity' began. Phillips, the principal curator of the RA show, is proud of the fact that he gives the Eastern region a prominence it has never enjoyed before.



Fang (Ntumu) Mask, equatorial Guinea, 19th century: dour and terrifying, yet with a subtle serenity

Hence the inclusion of the hand axe from Olduvai, a man-made object produced over a million and a half years ago.

Southern Africa is accorded a new importance as well. A case filled with ostrich eggs, each one punctured by a hole for use as a water-container, shows how deftly their surfaces were covered with incisive patterns, creatures and figures. Near by, a cluster of carved wooden seeds display an inventiveness and poise worthy of comparison with medieval misericords. Above all, though, the great Linton Slab presides over the Southern African room, a fragment of rock art alive with elegant sinuous images of armed hunters and the animals they pursue.

Having encouraged a fresh look at neglected regions, the survey goes on to celebrate the classic achievements of Central Africa. They are, I suppose, the images most commonly associated with the continent's finest sculpture. Statues and masks abound, some of them alarming to the Western eye. But the carvings that bristle with nails and blades should not be regarded as the African equivalent of Saint Sebastian shot through with arrows. For both blades and nails were hammered into these standing figures by supplicants in search of the truth, a cure for ailments of the body and of the soul.

All the same, the forcefulness of these hypnotic images should never be underestimated. They were no doubt regarded with as much awe as the superb Fang masks displayed in

the same section. The large wooden mask from equatorial Guinea is my favourite work in the entire survey. Dour and elongated enough to terrify wrong-doers, this pared-down symbol of fear and retribution nevertheless possessed a marvellously subtle serenity. No wonder these Congo carvings aroused so much excitement among experimental artists 90 years ago. Epstein, who became the most voracious collector of African sculpture in Britain, died on Fang pieces. Their intensity is outstanding, and the oil-sweat gleaming on the surface of several heads only accentuates their charismatic power.

The advent of West Africa and the Guinea Coast brings some astounding figures of pregnant women. One of these carvings has no visible breasts: they must have been subsumed in the stupendous stomach swelling beneath. It balloons to such a formidable size that the woman's generative strength suddenly seems capable of peopling the entire continent. Elsewhere, another prodigious mother gives suck with a strikingly pointed breast while she supports

6 No amount of decay could extinguish the obstinate energy of these pieces

more infants on her shoulder and around her waist.

The sturdiness of these carvings seems to draw nourishment from the wood, and in one sense the whole exhibition is a sustained testament to the sculptural inspiration of the tree. But the West African rooms also rejoice in the allure of bronze. The heads and plaques from the city of Benin have an elegance and polished fluency quite unlike anything else on view. If their suavity makes them less exciting than the rougher and more impassioned carvings in the show, the smoothly modelled ceramic vessel from Nigeria is still among the most impressive objects displayed here. Phillips must be congratulated for rescuing this stolen 1,000-year-old masterpiece from a Brussels antique shop.

The greatest surprise comes near the end of the show, where Africa north of the Sahara introduces the influence of Islam. Towering over the room is the mighty 15th-century minbar, with its richly embellished stairs leading up to a fantastical hurretted structure. An extravaganza straight out of the Arabian Nights, it points the survey in a very different, Muslim-dominated direction.

But the final room redresses the balance, returning us to Sahel and Savanna. Archaeology has much to discover throughout this area, and illicit digging means that many treasures have disappeared without any record. It is a tragic state of affairs, and shows no sign of future improvement. Against all the odds, though, the marvels assembled in this room have survived. They testify to the eloquence of image-making across the region, most movingly in the spare, utterly simplified figures who stretch their lean arms as high in the air as possible. They look frail, and the terms have tried hard to destroy them. But no amount of decay can extinguish their obstinate energy. Vital and aspiring, they seem at this concluding stage of the show to assert the irrepressible spirit of Africa in the most undaunted manner imaginable.

● Africa: The Art of A Continent, sponsored by the Anglo American Corporation, De Beers and Minorco in association with The Times, is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7438) from tomorrow until Jan 21

## Shades of dusk and dawn

John Russell Taylor applauds the varied output of a tormented English Neo-Romantic artist

Most of the Neo-Romantic group of wartime English painters sickened and died early. But many of them, before they had long arrived at maturity, showed signs that they were running out of creative steam — one thinks of the early work of Minton, Ayrton, Colquhoun and MacBryde.

The singular exception is Keith Vaughan, whose life and works are recalled in an admirably varied show at Austin/Desmond Fine Art.

The variety is in fact the key. Virtually alone of his generation, Vaughan continued to develop and expand his horizons right up to his death in 1977, at the hardly ripe old age of 65. This show includes one very early work, *Wrecked Boat*, painted around 1938 before Vaughan had acquired a crabbed Neo-Romantic intricacy. It is very bold and straightforward, and might almost be by an American Regionalist like Grant Wood.

Despite the plethora of small, spiky lines that Vaughan went in for, like his Neo-Romantic fellows in the early Forties, this natural strength of composition always underlies even the most complex and sometimes sidigery designs. Paintings such as *A Cigarette*, of 1946 or the gouache, *Carving Wheat-sheaves*, of 1950 subjugate superficial complication to a steady sense of overall form.

For this reason it does not come as too much of a surprise that Vaughan for many years after 1950 hovered on the brink of abstraction, sometimes toppling over, very often keeping all his options open with a picture that might be just shapes or might after all accord with one's first quick impression that it was a group of extremely simplified human figures.

Vaughan was unusual in this too. The word abstraction seems to imply that all ab-

stracts must be abstracted from something. Most British abstractionists abstract primarily from landscape. Though Vaughan was, as this show demonstrates, a sensitive painter of landscapes when he wished to be, his main continuing interest in art was the human body, particularly male. He is thus easier to compare with De Kooning than, say, Ivon Hitchens. This oddity within the British artistic scene no doubt explains the relative neglect which engulfed him.

Various things about Vaughan become apparent in the Austin/Desmond show, the only one for many years to cover the whole range of Vaughan's activities. First, that he was a superb draughtsman: the slightest sketchbook scribbles are full of life and vigour, and quite without Neo-Romantic affectation.

Secondly, that he was an inspired colourist. Not for him the flash and outbreak: he was interested in the subtle, more indeterminate shades of dusk or dawn, or the night that came between. Within this range, he is unbeatable. And finally, that he approached even the less prestigious applied arts — the illustration of popular books, the designing of textiles — with the same shining integrity and attention to detail that he gave everything else.

He was an unhappy man in many ways, with few satisfactory relationships in his life, and a later unhelpful inclination to the bottle. But his problems seem ultimately to have been those of the tormented perfectionist. He may not have known just how often he got it right, but posterity should have no difficulty in deciding.

● Keith Vaughan, 1915-1977, is at Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Fied Bull Yard, London WC1 (0171-242 4433) until October 11



Figures, of 1970: though he toyed with abstraction, Vaughan's main interest remained the human body

### VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items to be featured in the Royal Academy's Africa exhibition, which opens tomorrow

Lidded Vessel, Northern Ngoni, Swaziland or KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, late 19th Century, wood, 52 x 34 cm



It is unclear exactly what purpose elaborate vessels such as this one were originally intended to serve, but they may have been used as receptacles for liquids or food.

Another possible explanation is that these pieces may once have been commissioned by chiefs, who wanted to display their elevated status by having such examples of virtuoso craftsmanship cluttering up their residences. This particular vessel is carved from a single piece of wood, and has been incised and stained with palm oil. The surviving vessels of this kind are all so consistent in style and execution that it is suspected they were the work of a single carver or workshop.

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

UNTIL the Tate Gallery acquired her extraordinary painting of 1920, *The Deluge*, Winnifred Knights (1899-1947) was almost forgotten. More recently she has figured in various surveys of women's art, but the show currently at the Fine Art Society, after an outing at the British School at Rome, is the first real opportunity for coherent reassessment. Knights was at the Slade on and off between 1915 and 1920; there she met Thomas Morington, later PRA, and married him in 1924. Her student painting is rather what one would expect: solidly constructed landscapes with figures slightly suggestive of Augustus John, but with already a nascent interest in geometrical shapes. This would hardly prepare us for the bold simplification and stylisation of *The Deluge*, though with hindsight it makes sense as a culmination of what has gone before. Most of this show is taken up with drawn and painted studies of

details for the major paintings; some, particularly the series of views of a canal, are almost abstract, others — drawings of hands, feet, faces — have an almost Pre-Raphaelite precision. Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 5116) until October 13

□ John D. Edwards came to prominence about ten years ago as one of the new generation of artists who, brought up in an atmosphere where abstraction ruled, found a new sense of release by plunging into figuration. In his case the figurative element was sometimes minimal: the sails of a ship might be all the excuse needed for an essay in contrasting shapes and colours. But clearly he was interested in the world around him and redished the opportunity to depict and evoke it while playing with a palette of such

brilliance that it would have done credit to Matisse. This taste led him to the Tropics, and continued after he settled in the Cotswolds in 1991.

In his latest show, at the Mayor Gallery, he has drifted back towards abstraction, without going all the way. All the pictures are of trees, usually reduced to the bare essentials of a child's drawing. But Edwards plays innumerable variations of colour, arrangement, density and texture. If this is the Cotswolds, it is a Cotswolds Matisse would have recognised. Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 3558) until October 27

□ The dealer Adrian Mitos of Whitford Fine Art has long been known as a great collector of the unfashionable British art of the 1950s and 1960s. Now, of course, Pop Art has come back with a bang, and

most of the works in the current exhibition, *Post War To Pop*, which would have looked as faded as Carnaby Street a few years ago, come up today all bright and shining. It is fascinating to be reminded of artists such as Derek Boshier and Peter Phillips who featured in the Whitechapel New Generation show of 1964, along with Hockney, Caulfield and Allen Jones. They again look good, and Clive Barker, with his series of painted bronze groups of *Ice Cherry Cakes* (1969), looks even better. There is an excellent painting by the 'Dolly Girl' painter Pauline Boty (not all of her work is so appealing) and an unexpected early piece involving rusted bits of a motorbike by Mark Boyle. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street, St James's, SW1 (0171-930 9322) until October 31

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## THE TIMES ARTS

## DANCE 1

Robert Cohan, the 70-year-old doyen of British modern choreography, is back to revive his *Stabat Mater*

## DANCE 2

It's a man's life in Lea Anderson's new piece — but the formula is beginning to pall

## Pioneer who stays in step with all seasons

Robert Cohan, a founding-father of British modern dance, may be 70 years old but his diary is still full. Allen Robertson met him

He is such a major player on the dance stage this autumn that it is almost as if he had never been away. From the late 1960s well into the 1980s no season went by without at least one new dance from Robert Cohan. Yet since 1988, when he relinquished control of London Contemporary Dance Theatre, the company he had helped to form, Cohan has consciously tried to ease himself away from the spotlight.

Now he's back. Scottish Ballet opened its season last month with a revival of Cohan's full-length adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1992). In January, the company starts work on his *The Four Seasons*. And this week Rambert Dance Company will give its first performances of *Stabat Mater*, choreographed to Vivaldi in 1975 and one of Cohan's most popular dances.

Having discovered the pointe shoe late in life I like it

"I made it at a time when I was very much into music and new composers. But one day our music director handed me a copy of *Stabat Mater* and said 'Here, try this'. I did it in a week.

"It was like magic. Every step I did was the right step the very first time around and I went as fast as the dancers could learn it. Since then, I've never needed to tinker with it. I look at it now and I wonder who choreographed that beautiful dance."

Rambert will still be touring *Stabat Mater* when Cohan returns to Scotland — and Vivaldi — for *The Four Seasons*. "I know several choreographers have come afloat on it, but I'm going to try my hand, and because this is a ballet company, some of it will be on pointe. Having discovered the

pointe shoe late in life, I quite like it. And I must admit I'm less didactic about labels.

"I always think I'm going to do something very stark, really avant-garde and on the edge. But if it doesn't turn out that way, well, I'm resigned to that."

Suddenly Cohan, at 70, is almost as busy as he ever was, although these days he only has to deal with choreography, a luxury he was never able to allow himself in his heyday as founder-director of L.C.D.T. Cohan, an American dancer who started his career with the Martha Graham Company in 1946, was lured to Britain in the Sixties by Robin Howard to help foster modern dance on this side of the Atlantic.

"Once I decided to stay here," says Cohan, "I didn't go back to New York for three years. I think it was in 1969 that I decided this was where I could really do something good. Then, of course, it started booming. I was teaching in the school. I was teaching the company. I was choreographing. I was going out on tour. I'm not trying to say it was a one-man show, but I did feel it was mine and that it had to be done right."

"I always think the one big mistake Robin and I made was that we didn't plan on being so successful so soon. So we didn't know how to cope with the success that we achieved in a very short time. I mean, where do you go next when you've achieved everything you set out for yourself? In seven, eight years it was done — it was practically done."

As far back as the early 1980s, Cohan tried to find someone to succeed him. "I wanted someone to push me aside, to take over a new vision of their own." But a new vision never materialised.

And in early 1994 it was announced that the company would be permanently disbanded.

"It was short-sighted of the Arts Council to have closed down London Contemporary," Cohan insists. "It was a unique complex, an arts centre with a small (300-seat) theatre, with studios, a school and a contemporary repertory company all under one roof. Nobody else has that anywhere."

"Even if we were having difficulties finding the right artistic director the Arts Council, being our major sponsor, could have had a more positive attitude towards helping us instead of being indifferent, or even hoping it would fail."

Hoping? "Well, yes, because there is no doubt that the Arts Council needed one organisation that got a lot of money to fail, so that they could spread that money among all the other people. It was done in bad faith. I know that and I regret that."

Cohan's anger and his feelings of betrayal are balanced with relief and his new sense of personal freedom. "You know, when I was a kid growing up in Brooklyn, I lived for the circus — the Barnum and Bailey three-ring circus. My dream was to run away and join the circus. Now, looking back all these years later, I think that might be exactly what I did."

*Stabat Mater* opens at the Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe tonight (01494 512000). *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens tonight at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre (0131-529 6000).

Anderson has made a credible career as a choreographer on Britain's independent dance scene. The Featherstonehaughs have been going since 1988: their sister company, the all-female Cholmondeleys, even longer. By now she should be building on her early, undoubted successes, instead of rearguarding the limited formula of recent years.

The "bends" are what you get when you experience a sudden and dramatic change in atmospheric pressure. Metaphorically speaking, this is just what Anderson the choreographer needs.

DEBRA CRAINE

## LONDON

**SIXTH WINTER FESTIVAL OF VISUAL THEATRE** Opening day for an extraordinary evening of work, British and foreign, drama, cabaret and puppet theatre, by companies performing for over 20 years. The festival continues throughout the month, mostly in Studios 1 and 2, B&C, Levenshulme, Salford, SW11 (0171-223 2223).

**THE HOUSHOUS** Tony Hargrett, Colin Price, John Stronach and Harold Pinter himself in the transfer from Chichester of his long-running play in which the staff of a mental hospital scheme for dominance. Grouchy, funny, powerful in action. Comedy, Rancourt Street, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3pm and 5.45pm.

**SOME FINE CABARET** A compilation and series of many parts. Richard Rodney Bennett wrote a new work in a Festival Hall concert by the Philharmonia late this month. In the mean time, he ventures out in cabaret guise in performances of vintage songs and several of his own fine-tuned compositions. Pipers on the Park, Kensington, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight-Oct 14, 9.15 and 11.15pm.

**BLUE ON BLUE** New play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**COMMUNICATING DOGS** A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**DEAD FUNNY** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**PUNKY MONKEY** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**PEACH GARDEN** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE QUICK AND THE DEAD** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE YOUNG POISONERS** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE TALKING SIDES** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE CRAYON BOX** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE PRISONER** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE BLOOD BROTHERS** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

**THE BURNING BLUE** Comedy and drama. A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kira Anderson

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM** Buddy Greco is a pianist and singer of a different stripe from Bennett (see previous item), given to lush harmonies in Sinatra and lounge balladry. He will be accompanied by the staff of a mental hospital scheme for dominance. Grouchy, funny, powerful in action. Comedy, Rancourt Street, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3pm and 5.45pm.

**BRISTOL** Final week of performance here for Quilley's production of *Three Men on a Bench*. A fine cast including Alan Davies and Michael Williams, with some riveting performances. Comedy, Rancourt Street, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3pm and 5.45pm.

**GLoucester** A new play by a award-winning author. Matthew Denney the journey of a young man's life and a young woman between a young man and his parents. Oct 14, 8.30pm. Oct 15, 8.30pm. Oct 16, 8.30pm. Oct 17, 8.30pm. Oct 18, 8.30pm. Oct 19, 8.30pm. Oct 20, 8.30pm. Oct 21, 8.30pm. Oct 22, 8.30pm. Oct 23, 8.30pm. Oct 24, 8.30pm. Oct 25, 8.30pm. Oct 26, 8.30pm. Oct 27, 8.30pm. Oct 28, 8.30pm. Oct 29, 8.30pm. Oct 30, 8.30pm. Oct 31, 8.30pm.

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## LAW

● JUDGING JUDGES 39  
● TIMES LAW AWARDS 39



The face of sport is changing as businessmen such as Sir John Hall, left, and Kerry Packer, right, become more determined to capitalise on rugby and other sports. Clubs such as Harlequins, centre, will be increasingly affected by legal rulings on sports

As professionalism increasingly affects sport, what will it mean for the bodies that control it, and the players?

## Why the lawyers will run with the ball

The opening games of the rugby union season heralded the game's new "professionalism". But rugby union players are finding that their aspirations to become full-time professionals depend on available resources. Clubs and individuals need to be involved in competition guaranteed to secure finance. Though the Rugby Football Union has imposed a one-year moratorium on the move to professionalism, clubs and players are moving into the professional arena regardless.

The competing demands of rugby's investors, such as Sir John Hall of Newcastle, sponsors, broadcasters, players, clubs and audience will change the game. At the forefront of these changes will be legal advice.

All sports must ensure that they offer a package of rights to potential investors. Premier League broadcasting contracts made with BSkyB and the BBC illustrate the value of the unified rights package involving clubs, players and the governing body to broadcasters, sponsors and the sport itself.

By contrast, when the southern

hemisphere unions of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa announced during the Rugby World Cup that they had agreed a two-year deal worth £366 million with the News Corporation to televise their competitions, the deal was ended when the businessman Kerry Packer tried to establish a rival competition. The southern unions did not speak for their players because their players were not contracted to them. Mr Packer required 900 union players. For him, there was a possibility of sneaking the game's most important asset, its players, out from under the nose of the southern unions by offering the players lucrative contracts, thus devaluing the News Corp deal.

Paul Richardson, a solicitor handling sports and sponsorship matters with Harbottle & Lewis, a London media and entertainment practice, says: "It is imperative that the governing bodies that sell packages of rights to broadcasters

and sponsors have the players committed to it by an enforceable contract. Without the players, there is no event. Without the event, the governing body will find itself in breach of the warranties it will have inevitably given in any agreement it has with the sponsor or broadcaster. The broadcaster or sponsor will look to their contractual right to an indemnity for breach of those warranties."

### 'Sponsorship no longer depends on a whim'

The consequences for the governing bodies of failing to deliver what has been promised could be financially crippling. Competing offers to players, such as Mr Packer's, can devalue other rights. Ticket sales, merchandising and product endorsement are major income sources for sport. And the availability of commercial sponsorship and the sale of broadcasting rights finances top-level sport and its participants.

In return, sport and its players have to accept their responsibilities. Sponsors and broadcasters seeking additional assurances to make sure

they are getting at least what they bargained for build monitoring clauses into contracts. These deal with the projected level of exposure a sponsor hopes to achieve.

Mr Richardson says: "The days of sponsorship being a chairman's whim are no more. Sponsors now want a return on their investment. Increasingly, sponsors want clauses inserted in their agreements to monitor the contract in order to check the perception against the reality. Effectively they are asking for a right of audit."

If rugby successfully follows its professional path, it must find the money to do so. The clubs, players and governing body must present a united front. In future Mr Richardson says that "with margins becoming tighter, sponsors and broadcasters are increasingly focusing on the returns to them. Perhaps the day is not far away when sponsors or broadcasters become an owner or at least a part-owner in events to ensure tighter control over their investment."

RICHARD VEROW

● The author, a solicitor, lectures at the College of Law, London.

## Match of the day with the EU

therefore be foolish to try to restrict access in this way because the final decision will have the effect that no limit may be imposed on, for example, the number of French or Italians who play for Harlequins.

As for transfer rules, the position is complex. In his opinion, the Advocate-General recognised that the position in each member state was different, although he failed to consider the specific rules applicable in the UK, where players are, in essence, free to move at the expiry of their contracts, subject to the subsequent agreement of a transfer fee.

Yet the Advocate-General's opinion on this issue is couched in particularly broad terms. "Article 48 of the EC Treaty," he wrote, "is to be interpreted as prohibiting a football club from being able to demand and receive payment of a sum of money when one of its players whose contract has expired is engaged by another club."

If the ECJ ratifies the precise terms of this opinion, there is no doubt that the rules that operate, particularly at a European level, will have to be changed. Though

the position in the UK in respect of transfers purely between domestic clubs may escape the prohibition because it might be argued that under existing rules a club is not able to "demand" payment at the expiry of a contract, the rules currently in operation for transfers between European clubs, much criticised by the Advocate-General, do appear to fall squarely within the prohibition.

The ECJ will probably recommend at least some changes to football's current transfer rules, putting rugby union in the unique position of being able to commence drafting its own rules from scratch.

The Advocate-General's opinion may be long but it should be compulsory reading for anyone charged with such drafting because it discusses in detail the sorts of transfer payment that may be justified, even bearing in mind the general prohibition contained in Article 48. Such legitimate payments may include a redistribution of income from gate receipts and television rights of the receiving club, or payments to recompense legitimate training fees.

Therefore, whatever the outcome of the final ECJ decision, it should be possible for the RFU to produce a set of rules which not only guarantee some payment for a transferring player, even after his contract has expired, but do so outside the prohibition of general provisions of EU law.

TOM USHER

● The author, a solicitor with SJ Berwin & Co, advises clients in sports and entertainment.

## Promises promises

MARTIN MEARS, the new president of the Law Society, is expected to open the Law Society annual conference this Friday with an attack on government policies which he says are destroying the middle classes. But he is as well known for his promises as for his promises.

Mr Mears was tight-lipped on his efforts to force an inquiry into a £30,000 severance package to the outgoing head of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, Veronica Lowe. There is anger among some of his supporters that the first council meeting two weeks ago agreed only a future procedure, that such arrangements be subject to scrutiny by a committee, including the president. Support for an inquiry promised by various council members did not materialise.

### Confusing label

THE Tom Olsen Trust annual lecture takes place at St Bide's, Fleet Street, on October 17. This year Lord Alexander of Wealdon will give a



Mears: tight-lipped

lecture on "The Law: more than just a business", a title that may confuse lawyers who still see the law as a profession. Those interested should contact Tim Olsen at Lovell White Durrant or pick up tickets at the door.

### Showing off

HENRY HODGE and Eileen Penbridge, the defeated Law Society presidential candidates, have started new campaigns. Both run leading legal aid practices, in north and south London, respec-

## OUTS

tively, and have decided the time is ripe for new ventures to advertise their firms more widely.

Commuters who use the Northern Line may well have noticed the Hodge, Jones and Allen adverts being carried on trains on that line. And those who travel in to the City can spot the words Fisher Meredith, Pembroke's firm, emblazoned across a bus or two.

● Lawrence Collins takes on one of the hottest jobs in City law firms this week: head of litigation, as Herbert Smith. Collins has acted in many high-profile cases, is one of the few solicitor-advocates in the City, and was the first practising solicitor to be awarded a Doctor of Laws by Cambridge University.

### Itchy fingers

A WOMAN has been chosen to be the first managing partner of the Freshfields network of offices in Asia.

Ruth Markland will manage offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore from January 1. "I am very

excited and my fingers are itching to get started," she says. "I want to make sure that we optimise the huge experience we have in that region."

She has no family to worry about — just four cats.

### Come again

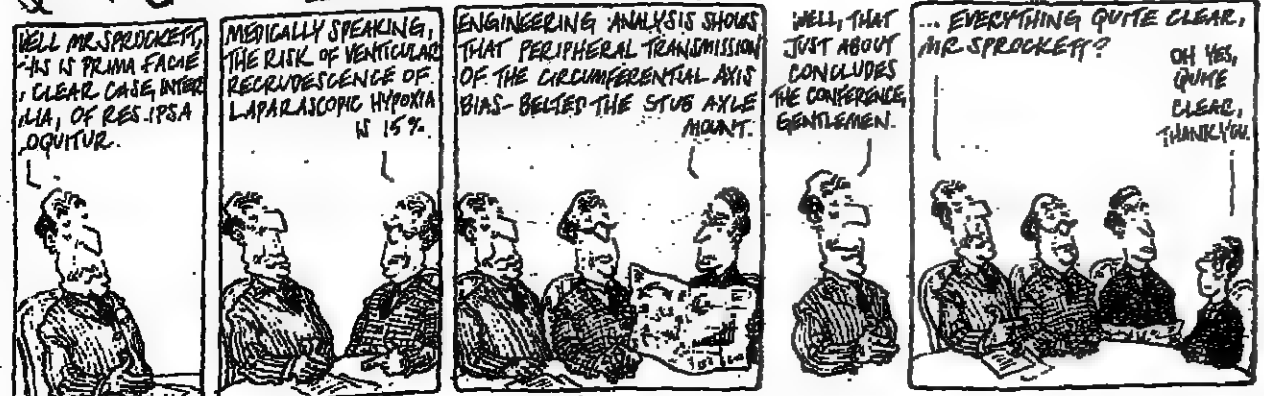
THOSE attending this week's solicitors' annual conference in Birmingham who were also at the bar conference last Saturday, risk déjà vu. Lord Woolf will deliver the keynote address this Saturday, speaking on civil justice reform during a plenary session entitled "Civil Justice: What Needs To Be Changed?" Lord Woolf was also the key speaker at the bar conference last week.

● Never stand in the way of a blind man. When a woman in Florida saw Freddie the guide dog and Vernon Henley approaching, she stood her ground to watch the dog steer round her. It didn't. She ended up with a broken toe, and demanded \$160,000 damages from the charity that had trained the dog. But after outraged protests, her lawyers withdrew from the case and donated \$1,000 to the charity.

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You will have gained between 4-9 years' post-qualification transactional experience in a major City law firm or with a company in the energy industry and will have a project development/project finance background (no energy experience is necessary). Significant international travel, at times for extended periods, will be required. You will be a hardened negotiator, pro-active, imaginative and capable of working closely with aggressive business development executives in this fast moving environment.

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The firm is currently acting on a range of UK and overseas projects, advising clients which include major UK and international energy companies on international privatisations, energy regulation and competition law, as well as the trading and transportation of oil, gas and electricity.

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Please submit written applications to Stuart Walker at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London EC2A 2HA. Alternatively, contact Jonathan Brenner or Andrew Russell on 0171-377-0510 (0181-940-6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PY.



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The successful applicant, if not already a Circuit Judge, will be recommended to The Queen for appointment to the Circuit Bench.

The Lord Chancellor will recommend for appointment, and/or designate the candidate who appears to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description, note of the criteria for appointment and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171-210 2213 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Judicial Appointments  
Lord Chancellor's Department  
Room 6.34, Southside  
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Completed application forms must be returned by 27 October 1995

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**PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE**  
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Medium sized City firm with a leading reputation in relation to the Government PFI requires either a project finance or non-contentious construction background to assist in the development of this area. Partner designate role, no following required. Ref: T 7988.

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**CONSTRUCTION**  
3 to 7 years qualified to £60,000  
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**INTERNATIONAL FINANCE**  
2 to 5 years qualified to £70,000  
Leading City firm requires three additional assistant solicitors with experience of syndicated loans and secured lending. Opportunity to widen experience with exposure to corporate recovery. Premium salary is available. Ref: T 8685.

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Sir Frederick Lawton discusses judicial resignations, and (right) Daniel Lightman looks at retirement ages

## Who judges the judges' behaviour?

If a circuit judge performs his judicial duties satisfactorily, should he be dismissed by the Lord Chancellor, under his statutory powers, for behaving in private in a way which many members of the public would regard as meriting censure?

A High Court judge could not be so dismissed. In the 1920s Mr Justice Macarthur, who was given to moralising on the bench, was known to keep a mistress. In the 1980s a High Court judge on assize at Nottingham died in a prostitute's bed. Had Queen Victoria known of his liking for prostitutes, she would not have been amused, but there was nothing she could have done except through motions for dismissal passed by both Houses of Parliament. The House of Lords, with memories of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Palmerston, might not have voted for it.

Judges have to remember that they are the Queen's delegates for discharging her obligation under her Coronation Oath to do justice in mercy. It follows that they should behave with dignity in public and avoid scandal. If they have vices they should indulge in them in private and ensure they do not become public knowledge.

This does not require judges to behave as *humbags* but it is their

duty to safeguard the reputation of the judiciary. If their immoral sexual behaviour does become public knowledge, resignation is inevitable. Why? The public is unlikely to have respect for a judge known to associate with prostitutes or to be a womaniser.

There never has been any formal procedure for investigating alleged misconduct by judges of any rank. Only one circuit judge this century has been dismissed — Judge Bruce Campbell, on his conviction for smuggling whisky. There was no formal inquiry into his conduct. However, the lack of any formal procedures has not stopped Lord Chancellors from reprimanding judges whom they considered to have behaved badly.

Recently the files of the Lord Chancellor's Department were examined by Robert Stevens, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford. He published his findings in a book, *The Independence of the Judiciary*. It reveals that Lord Chancellors have not silently suffered what they considered to be judicial misbehaviour.

In 1954 the amiable Mr Justice Lloyd-Jacob, a fervent churchman, wrote a letter to *The Times* about the peaceful uses of atomic power, urging nations to punish other nations which used the hydrogen



The procession of judges, from Westminster Abbey to the House of Lords, opens the legal year

bomb. His offence was expressing himself publicly about controversial politics. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Simonds, reprimanded him in stinging terms. He described it as a deplorable incursion by a High Court judge into controversial politics, saying: "In my opinion it was a breach of your duty as a judge to write the letter, and I am deeply sorry that you wrote it."

Mr Justice Hallett had twice, within a few months, been criticised severely by the Court of Appeal for bad behaviour in the course of trials. After the first he was sent for by the Lord Chancellor,

Lord Kilnair. According to Temple gossip at the time, he told the Lord Chancellor that if anything of the same kind happened again, and it would not, he would resign. It did. He was summoned again by Lord Kilnair who is alleged to have said to him: "I take it that I am going to have your resignation." What the records show is that there was a conversation about his resignation and a date was fixed for it.

Lord Chancellors have been sensitive to judges making injudicious remarks both on and off the bench. Mr Stevens quoted a number of examples. In 1978 *The Times* reported that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn Jones, had reprimanded Mr Justice Melford Stevenson for referring to the Sexual Offences Act 1967 as a buggers' charter. A little later Judge Argyle was reprimanded for making anti-immigration remarks and Judge Pickles for writing to *The Daily Telegraph* about penal policy. It seems likely that Lord Denning's retirement came when it did because of comments which he made about peremptory challenges to jurors when black people were on trial.

Lord Chancellors, when exercising their disciplinary powers, have to remember that judges of all ranks are independent. Neither they nor anyone else can interfere with the exercise of their judicial functions. This lies with the appel-

late courts, not with Lord Chancellors. The line between legitimate and unconstitutional intervention by them is a fine one.

That there is such a line is not always appreciated by MPs. They often write to Lord Chancellors complaining about sentences passed in cases in which their constituents have been involved. Lord Chancellors usually feel that they should tell their correspondents why the sentences were passed. This may mean, and usually does, writing to the trial judge for his reasons, taking care not to give the impression that the Lord Chancellor is criticising what the judge did.

The Court of Appeal has an important part to play in ensuring that trial judges when trying cases behave properly. From time to time complaints are made by an appellant that at the trial the judge behaved improperly. It may be alleged that he showed bias, asked too many questions, was rude to counsel or browbeat witnesses. Then the Court of Appeal has to investigate them, and when giving judgment make findings. All this is done in public and is likely to be reported in the press. Judicial misbehaviour is not acceptable to the senior judiciary nor should it be.

● The author is a former Court of Appeal judge.

## Lord Chancellors can go on, and on, and...

Yesterday Her Majesty's judges made their annual procession for the start of the legal year. A number of familiar faces were no longer there, including Lord Bridge of Harwich, 78. In his final judicial utterance in July, he expressed his regret at the recent coming into force of the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993. No longer could he, or any other judge, sit over the age of 75; judges appointed after 1993 must retire by 70.

He said: "My lords, since the populist image of the geriatric judge, out of touch with the real world, is now reflected in the statutory presumption of judicial incompetence at the age of 75, this is the last time that I shall speak judicially in your lordships' House. I am happy that the occasion is one when I can agree with your Lordships still in the prime of judicial life who demonstrate so convincingly that common sense and the common law here go hand in hand."

All judges are affected, except one. The "statutory presumption of judicial incompetence" does not apply to the Lord Chancellor. There is no retirement age for the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and neither the Government nor Opposition has any plans to introduce one. Thus Lord Mackay of Clashfern, now 68, who was subject to a retirement age as a law lord before he was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1987, can continue to hold office — and sit as a law lord — well past the age of 75.

Even the Lord Chancellor's Department is not immune from age reforms. Since legislation in 1990, all future Permanent Secretaries must retire at 62. Why, then, is there no retirement age for judges? It is an important element in dispelling the image of an elderly judiciary, out of touch with modern society, the same considerations surely apply to the one who appoints the judges and himself presides over the final court of appeal from their decisions.

Opponents of change may claim that by removing one anomaly, you would merely be creating another — or else setting a danger-

ous precedent. The Lord Chancellor occupies a unique role because, in addition to his judicial capacity, he is the second most senior member of the Cabinet as well as Speaker of the House of Lords. One compromise would be to allow him to continue to be Lord Chancellor after the age of 70, but not to sit as a judge after that age. Why not then go a step further and stop him ever sitting as a judge?

If his role is left unchanged, and he is made to retire at 70, shouldn't the same restriction apply to his boss, the Prime Minister, and the rest of the Cabinet? MPs may argue that because they are elected to their positions by the public, they should not be subject to any age restriction.

But the same cannot be said of peers, whether they are life or hereditary. If the Speaker of the House of Lords — in another of his many guises, the Lord Chancellor — were to have a mandatory retirement age, should his fellow peers be able to vote after they have reached that age? For that matter, shouldn't there be an age limit for all unelected public servants, including, perhaps, the Queen, who will be 70 next April?

That there is no retirement age for the Lord Chancellor may not be the mere quirk of history it seems to be. More likely, it is a mere quirk of history, an example of a typically English compromise.

### Thomas Watts

A REPORT (January 13) on the dispute between Dr Malcolm Smith and his former solicitor, Thomas Watts, said that Dr Smith had issued a writ for negligence against Mr Watts. We have subsequently discovered that Dr Smith has not issued a writ, but he has alleged negligence in proceedings brought against him by Mr Watts for unpaid costs. Mr Watts rejects the allegations and denies that he was in any way negligent in the handling of Dr Smith's case. We regret the error and are happy to put the record straight.

A SET of chambers, 1 Essex Court, under Anthony Grabner, QC, is sponsoring this year's Times Law Awards for students. It is the first time in the five-year history of the awards that barristers have sponsored the competition; previous sponsors have been law firms.

Paul Shrubbs, the 50-strong set's senior clerk, said: "There was a feeling among many of us here that this enterprise and the encouragement it gives young people was a worthwhile thing to support."

The set is one of the leaders at the commercial Bar. In the new Chambers Directory of the Legal Profession, it ranked first for

commercial work, alongside Brick Court Chambers and Fountain Court. It is commercial work in its broadest sense, taking in every aspect of international and finance law.

Best known as the set founded almost 30 years ago by Sam Stanger, QC (who died last year), and three others, the chambers' sers include Mr Grabner himself and Elizabeth Glover, QC, Peter Leaver, QC, and Christopher Carr, QC. The set's juniors include Jeffrey Grader, Rhodri Davies, Jeffrey Onions, Kenneth

Maclean and John McCaughan.

They occupy modernised premises at 1, 2 and 3 Essex Court and — rare at the Bar — have room to expand to take up to 60 tenants. Mr Shrubbs, who joined the set five years ago, and the other senior clerk, Robert Ralphs, who has been there much longer, run a 25-strong administrative team, including 12 clerks. Like many law firms, they are open for long hours: from 9am to 10pm.

● Full details of the Times Law Awards competition and its prizes (valuing more than £6,000) will be published in the Law pages next week.

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## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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Prestigious East Coast US firm with secure London office seeks top quality UK litigation partner (ideally aged 25-35) for role which will involve handling excellent range of cross-border disputes governed through firm's existing UK offices and extensive foreign office network. Rational approach to equity participation and realistic expectations on following. (Ref:5535)

**SENIOR TAX**  
Medium sized City firm seeks senior corporate tax lawyer for key role in future development of the group. Ideal candidate will deliver in a senior capacity in a log jam at higher pressure firm's partner with a past following. The group is clean and work includes corporate, commercial, employment and property related advice. Creativity and the ability to practice both internally and externally are crucial. (Ref:5535)

**REPUTATION MANAGEMENT** **019-138,000**  
Medium sized City firm with rapidly developing reputation in insurance work (at present founded primarily on the construction side) seeks to consolidate its position in this marketplace through the recruitment of a senior insurance/litigation partner with strong non-commercial insurance skills. This does not mean a following through a network of contacts in the market would be clearly advantageous. Must enjoy practice development and be prepared to take on the challenge of building a reputation in this area. (Ref:5535)

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Dynamic and entrepreneurial international firm currently engaged in high profile telecoms transactions in Europe, Asia and Argentina has long term need for additional telecoms/litigation lawyer to join its partner level. No requirements for a following. Top right candidates may be considered on the basis of immediate partnership. Outstanding quality work in high profile areas of the practice. (Ref:4897)

### HOUSE PC

Telecoms company with steady flow of complex EC work requires commercial lawyer, ideally 3-4 years' qualified, with sound grounding in Community law likely to come from top twenty City firms. Key requirements is ability to provide practical EC solutions in a tight timeframe. Excellent remuneration and bonus package on offer. (Ref:5535)

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### INTEGRATED MARKETING

Prestigious international law firm with strong commitment to further enhancement of its UK/European profile seeks experienced marketing specialist preferably with previous law firm experience to come in and head this function. Role is wide ranging and at a level which calls for involvement in planning, rather than merely implementing, strategic decisions. (Ref:5535)

### COMPARTNER

Dynamic and entrepreneurial international firm currently engaged in high profile telecoms transactions in Europe, Asia and Argentina has long term need for additional telecoms/litigation lawyer to join its partner level. No requirements for a following. Top right candidates may be considered on the basis of immediate partnership. Outstanding quality work in high profile areas of the practice. (Ref:4897)

### COMPETITIVE

Telecoms company with steady flow of complex EC work requires commercial lawyer, ideally 3-4 years' qualified, with sound grounding in Community law likely to come from top twenty City firms. Key requirements is ability to provide practical EC solutions in a tight timeframe. Excellent remuneration and bonus package on offer. (Ref:5535)

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This assignment is being handled by Philip Boynton LL.M (Harvard). Contact him on 0171 405 4161 (fax 0171 430 1140). Alternatively, write to him at Reuter Simkin, Legal Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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- A unique culture, which respects the individual and gives you room to grow. We are unstuffy, open and entrepreneurial - rather different from other large City firms.
- A strong commitment to personal development and staff training.

DENTON HALL



### NICKELODEON UK TELEVISION LAWYER

Nickelodeon UK is a leading kid's satellite and cable channel. Due to rapid expansion and a new channel launch, we need an experienced television lawyer to assist the Head of Legal & Business Affairs. This would involve dealing with a variety of TV work, primarily drafting and negotiating programme licences, production contracts and employment contracts. Experience with the ITC Codes and programme content work would be an advantage. 2-4 years qualified. Relevant TV experience is absolutely essential.

Nickelodeon is an equal opportunities employer.

Applications (marked "Legal Application") by Monday 16th October to Moray Aitken, Head of Legal and Business Affairs, Nickelodeon UK, 15/18 Rathbone Place, London, W1P 1DF.

Due to continued expansion we require 2 solicitors with a minimum 2 years PQE for the following departments:

- Civil litigation
- Company Commercial

Candidates must be good communicators with confident personalities, highly organised and with a commercial attitude to the practice of law.

Please apply in writing with CV to Lionel Curry.

## CORPORATE 2 - 4 years' ppe To £45,000

ARE YOU... Craving for greater responsibility within a supportive team?

- Anxious to handle more challenging work with an international dimension?
- Intent on doing more business-related travelling in Europe and the United States?
- Anticipating a partnership bottleneck?
- Ready to reorient your career in a dynamic and forward-looking firm?

YES THEN CALL US NOW!

We represent a highly respected City practice with an impressive range of international clients. This firm offers all the opportunities you have been looking for.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact: Christopher Sweeney or Emma Cowell on 0171-405 6062 (0181-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: christopher@qdruc.demon.co.uk



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## BRIGHTER PROSPECTS

#### IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL

Excellent Plus Benefits. Hands on 2-4 years' ppe commercial lawyer sought by thriving legal department of international cable company. Work will involve a variety of commercial contracts to include cable and telecom related bespoke agreements. You seek a move to a forward thinking environment where lawyers are highly prized. Ref: T2140

#### COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

To £60,000. A leading Central London firm with first rate client base seeks non-contingent insurance solicitor with between 2-7 years' ppe. You will take early responsibility for an exciting workload and will relish some FSA exposure. A superb career path for the highly ambitious. Ref: T17952

#### CORPORATE FINANCE

To £58,000. Top twenty City firm with excellent corporate finance work of the highest quality in a top flight Central London practice. With between 3-6 years' relevant experience gained in a leading City practice you seek quality of work and an improved lifestyle. Ref: T24165

#### PROPERTY LITIGATION

To £52,000. Top twenty City firm with excellent property client base now has an opening for a 3-5 years' ppe property litigator. Quality caseload, including landlord and tenant, breach of covenants etc. Strong procedural and advocacy skills required and in return the future will be bright. Ref: T7741

#### TELECOMS

To £44,000. Big ten City firm with aggressively expanding practice in this sphere seeks to add a 2-4 years' qualified lawyer to its team. You will be from another major firm or telecoms company and have excellent contractual and regulatory experience. Exciting range of work with strong prospects. Ref: T24025

For further information in complete confidence, please contact: Greg Abrahamson, June Merril or William Cook (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: stephan@qdruc.demon.co.uk



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## GLOBAL LEADER INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADING SHIPPING/COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Our client is a diversified and innovative US multinational with operations in 70 countries. It is a global leader in each of its main businesses: commodity trading and shipping, food processing, agricultural products and financial trading.

To serve current need and anticipated growth, the company wishes to hire an additional lawyer to join its European law department. This individual will be based initially in its European Headquarters in Surrey. The assignment will involve primary responsibility for significant trading and shipping litigation/arbitration in London in conjunction with the company's legal department in Geneva. In addition, this lawyer will work with operations in the UK, Netherlands, France and elsewhere on a broad range of commercial legal issues and transactions.

The successful candidate should have 1 to 3 years' post qualification experience. An excellent

record of academic achievement and good experience in shipping and trading litigation/arbitration are basic requirements for consideration. A flexible approach to working temporarily in other locations for training purposes is required. Fluency in French is highly desirable.

This is an unrivalled opportunity for an ambitious and commercially minded young lawyer with a business oriented approach to succeed at the highest level within this dynamic and exciting company.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Deborah Kirkman on behalf of Robert Walters Associates. For further information in complete confidence, please contact her on 0171-379 3333 (confidential fax: 0171-915 8714) or write to her at Robert Walters Associates, 25 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HP. Internet: debbie.kirkman@rwa.co.uk

ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES



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## CORPORATE/ COMMERCIAL LAWYER

### IN-HOUSE

West Sussex

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT  
CONSULTANTS

## BOWTHORPE

Bowthorpe plc is the British publicly quoted parent company of a Group which operates internationally within the electronics industry. The Group is highly acquisitive, completing over 12 acquisitions since January 1991, primarily in the UK and USA. An outstanding record of growth continues to strengthen the Group's presence in world markets ranging from the civil aerospace to the telecommunications industry. Now commanding a turnover in excess of £400m and enviable profit levels, the Group figured in a recent survey to identify Britain's 10 most admired companies.

The Group now wishes to recruit its first in-house lawyer to take on a key role at the UK corporate office. The position will involve liaison with directors and senior management, encompassing a wide range of corporate and commercial matters. It will demand an ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines in an international environment.

This is a challenging role and suitable candidates must be able to demonstrate a combination of strong commercial and intellectual ability as well as excellent legal skills. Accordingly, 4-6 years post-qualification experience of a wide range of corporate/commercial law, including areas such as acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures and commercial contracts, will be accompanied by stamina, flexibility and a commercial outlook within a team environment. Whilst candidates in private practice would be considered, lawyers currently working in industry will be of particular interest.

Interested candidates should contact Gareth Chambers on 0171 404 4646 (evenings and weekends 0171 813 6475). Alternatively, you can write to him at Daniels Bates Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH (confidential fax: 0171 831 7969). This assignment is being handled exclusively by Daniels Bates on behalf of Bowthorpe plc.

## ASSISTANT

Benjamin, a well-established retail plc which operates throughout the South East and has a significant interest in the Centre in Kingston-upon-Thames, is seeking an experienced secretary.

Reporting to the Finance & Company Secretary, you will have a wide range of responsibilities which include and stock exchange work.

Please ring Firms Recruitment

Ch

74 Lime Lane, London EC3A



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Since opening in Leeds in May 1994 and in Manchester in May 1995 Garrett & Co's Northern practice has grown rapidly and has achieved a reputation for providing innovative advice on all aspects of tax, employee benefits and pensions.

Due to the increasing workload in these areas, and the need for additional support to the corporate department, we are seeking to recruit solicitors with a sound knowledge of either corporate tax, employee incentive schemes or pensions law.

The ideal candidates are likely to have around 3-5 years PQE gained with a large commercial practice and to have the drive and enthusiasm to play a leading role in developing practice initiatives in these areas. Garrett & Co believes in rewarding success and promotion prospects are excellent for the right candidates.

If you would like the chance to play a vital part in Garrett & Co's development, please write with a full CV to:

Roland Todd  
Garrett & Co  
21 Queen Street  
Leeds  
LS1 2TW

Tel: 0113 244 1954  
Fax: 0113 241 6291

**CITY ASSISTANTS**

**CONSTRUCTION** to £33,000  
Pre-eminent in construction law our client, a sizeable City firm seeks an exceptional solicitor with 1-2 years relevant PQE from a recognised construction firm to handle a mix of contentious and non-contentious matters.

**COMM PROP** to £32,000  
Having diligently gained 2 years Commercial Property experience you may now be ready to join one of the City's leading firms. Our client seeks a personable and technically strong property solicitor to handle a caseload with a significant Landlord & Tenant emphasis, for a variety of household name clients.

**COMPET/EC** to £33,000  
A leading City/International firm our client has offices in several European countries. There are generating an ever-increasing flow of complex instructions stretching to the full of the existing team of young and dynamic EC/Competition specialists. An additional assistant with 1-2 years relevant PQE is sought.

**PRIVATE CLIENT** c £28,000  
Our client is arguably the leading private client practice in London, with an unsurpassed commitment to providing top quality advice, and a commercial approach to problem solving. A like minded NQ solicitor is sought with a solid grounding in all aspects of private client law during training.

**CORPORATE** to £48,000  
Celebrated for its heavyweight corporate expertise this c.60 partner City firm is consistently winning beauty parades against the Top 10. A relaxed but productive atmosphere contributes to our client's success. The successful candidate will be a corporate specialist with c.4 years PQE seeking rapid career advancement.

**TRADEMARKS** £33,000+  
Impressive growth marks out this medium sized commercial practice, seeking an experienced TM expert with 3 years' PQE who wishes to 'create' a niche area of specialisation in a progressive firm. Part caseload available. Partnership prospects.

**I.T. & I.P.** to £42,000  
To provide their extensive national and international clients with a full IP/IT service this c.60 partner City practice seeks an IT contracts/IP copyright specialist (2-4 years PQE). You will have excellent academic and relevant experience from a recognised IP/IT firm.

**COMM PROP** to £48,000  
Looking to make that first career move? This c.60 partner City firm handles all aspects of Comm Prop Law and urgently requires top calibre solicitors (1-5 years PQE) to join its expanding department, currently enjoying unrivalled growth. Excellent prospects.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** to £35,000  
At the cutting edge of environmental law this major City firm's growing reputation leads them to seek a 1-2 year qualified solicitor with experience in a related field (planning/property/energy) wishing to specialise in this fast evolving sector.

To discuss any of the above opportunities in detail, please contact Jon Garrett, Ben Williams or Simon Egan on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends 01252 713302) or write to us in complete confidence, at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5D3 (fax 0171 404 0469).

**EAGAN JANION****PRACTICE**

**London Trademarks** 2-4 yrs  
Busy, well-regarded team in City practice needs further fee-earner - solicitor, barrister or TM agent - to assist with expanding caseload. Top quality UK & international work.

**London IP** 1-3 yrs  
Challenging non-contentious IP role with leading Holborn firm for a bright lawyer seeking genuine prospects in a thriving department. IT aspect, while not essential, is a bonus.

**Wiltshire Co/Comm** Comm Property  
Exciting new opportunities within this highly regarded commercial practice for very bright co/comm and commercial property solicitors at the NQ - 4 year level. Genuine prospects.

**Thames Valley Employment** 3-5 yrs' PQE  
Top practices in Reading and Oxford seek calibre employment lawyers, preferably at the 3-5 year level. Excellent opportunities with firms well known for employment work.

**Reading Co/Comm** Partnership  
Two superb openings at leading Reading firms for senior co/comm lawyers with 6 yrs+ PQE. Experience of IP or yellow book work would be an advantage. Outstanding packages.

Please contact Simon Hall on 0171 430 1711 or write to him at 44-46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN (Fax 0171 831 4186)

**GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG**

LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**IN-HOUSE**

**Blue Chip plc** Co. Sec. Lawyer to £50k  
Top plc seeks bright lawyer for a non-transactional role assisting with a range of company secretarial duties. Previous in-house experience would be preferred. London based.

**Co/Comm** Aven 4-7 yrs  
Outstanding opportunity for an ambitious, high calibre lawyer with general co/comm experience gained in a leading law firm to establish a legal department. Generous package on offer.

**European Counsel** Holland 4-8 yrs  
Leading consumer goods company seeks a high calibre lawyer for No. 2 role handling broad range of pan-European co/comm matters. Language skills would be a definite advantage.

**Employment** Aven 3-7 yrs  
Exceptional opportunity for an ambitious employment lawyer with strong interpersonal skills and a commercial approach to join this prestigious organisation as their regional specialist.

**Co/Comm** London 4-6 yrs  
Challenging, key role for a high calibre company/commercial specialist with good transactional experience to join this leading accountancy practice. Excellent package.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Bentalls, a well-established quoted retail plc which operates department stores in the South East and also holds a significant interest in The Bentall Centre in Kingston-upon-Thames, seeks to appoint an assistant company secretary.

Reporting to the Finance Director/Company Secretary, you will provide a core company secretarial service, responsibilities will include statutory and stock exchange compliance.

insurances and claims administration, share and profit sharing schemes and property administration. Applicants must be ICSA qualified with at least three years' relevant experience. The successful candidate will quickly be given areas of sole responsibility.

The position offers excellent prospects for early promotion and will be based at the company's headquarters in Surrey. A generous salary is offered together with a car and other benefits.

Please ring Fiona Boxall or Jane Wallace or send them a copy of your C.V.

**Chambers**

CHAMBERS &amp; PARTNERS: PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET Tel: (0171) 606 8844 Fax: (0171) 600 1793

**Corporate Lawyers****Chinese Speaking****Stephenson Harwood & Lo****Hong Kong**

Stephenson Harwood & Lo, established in 1979, has a successful full-service practice.

The Corporate Department wishes to recruit additional young lawyers to work in a team that handles a complete range of corporate finance and general commercial transactions with a strong international dimension.

Candidates, ranging from newly qualified to three years' admitted, must be genuinely interested in a career in Hong Kong and appreciate the challenge of meeting the demands of clients who operate in a fast-moving business community. Candidates should be able to speak Cantonese and/or Mandarin and, ideally, read and write Chinese.

Contracts carry an attractive remuneration and benefits package.

Interviews will be held in London and career and personal details should be sent to Denis Reed, Stephenson Harwood, One St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH.

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**CHAMBERS****Australia**

Candidates wishing to find work in Australia can now use Chambers & Partners to do so. We have an arrangement with an associate agency giving us access to all the major firms in Sydney.

The kinds of lawyers in demand in Australia are similar to those in demand here. Most sought-after are those with 2-6 years' experience. The areas of specialisation in demand at the moment are intellectual property, banking and finance, corporate/commercial, computer and telecoms law, and construction. In these areas of law, unlike property for instance, English and Australian law are sufficiently similar to allow English lawyers to practice over there without difficulty.

For candidates from the major City firms, opportunities are even greater: they can be assured of a job in Sydney in virtually any non-contentious area of law.

Salaries in Australia, when the cost of living is taken into account, are more or less the same as those in London. The large firms pay two-year-qualified solicitors of \$60,000 a year. (Two dollars equal one pound at current rates.) Four-year-qualified get around \$67,000, and six-year-qualified around \$74,000. Associates average \$60,000, and partners average \$68,000. At the top end of the scale, partners will earn around \$80,000 a year.

The legal profession in Australia is in a buoyant mood as a result of the recession, with many law firms reporting an increase of 10% or more, and the job market becoming much more active. For those tempted to work there, now is not a bad time to make the move.

Michael Chambers

**CHAMBERS & PARTNERS**

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT  
100, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JL  
Tel: 0171 606 9371  
Fax: 0171 606 1793

**INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner****Legal Adviser: Paris**

Solicitor with c.8 yrs' comm experience to join hi-tech co. Work is international with strong contractual element. Background in construction/energy preferred. Must be flexible on location.

**Finance: City**

Solicitor with 2-4 yrs' PQE to join legal dept of finance house. Good knowledge of Eurobonds essential. Financial background preferred, ideally with City law firm. European languages an advantage.

**Legal Adviser: London**

Solicitor or barrister with c.6 yrs' commercial experience to join hi-tech company. Background in industry with international exposure preferred. Must be computer literate. Languages useful.

**Legal Assistants: South East**

Solicitor or barrister with c.2 yrs' PQE to join well known hi-tech company. Work is general commercial with some small property and competition law. Familiarity with EC issues advantageous. Some travel.

**Media: London**

Solicitor or barrister with c.5 yrs' PQE to join legal dept of entertainment company. You should have co/comm and copyright experience, preferably gained in a media environment.

**Legal Adviser: Aberdeen**

Solicitor with c.8 yrs' experience, preferably in the offshore industry, to join hi-tech company. Work is predominantly international. Possibility of future overseas postings.

**PRACTICE London: David Jemmy, David Woolton, Melanie Mitchell-Baker**

South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosain Midlands: Lauren Cochrane North: Suid Bahra

**Partnership Positions**

We have been seeking partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

**Litigation Partner: City**  
Niche firm with surplus work and high-quality clientele (institutions and one in publishing, oil and petro) seeks litigation partner with post-following.

**Corporate: French & German**  
Leading mid-sized City firm offers 1-4 yr qual solicitor opportunity to use fluent French or German on broad range of international corporate transactions.

**Pensions: City**  
Wonderful opportunity for 1-4 yr qual solicitor to join expanding practice area in top ten firm. You will be involved in all aspects of pensions work.

**Construction: City**  
Successful "boutique" firm seeks 1-3 yr qual specialist litigator. Dept is developing fast and now rivals its larger competitors.

**Banking Partner Designate: City**  
Major City firm seeks senior banking solicitor in several practice areas: general comm lending, securitisation, project finance. Outstanding p/bp prospects.

**Property: West End**  
Flourishing small practice seeks 5-18 mths qual solicitor for even mix of residential and commercial property work. Friendly working atmosphere.

**Marital/Pers Injury: Berkshire**  
c.5 yr qual solicitor with marital/personal injury expertise to join large firm with network of regional offices.

**Personal Injury: Cornwall**  
Stunning opening for plaintiff personal injury lawyer to join modern, franchised firm. £ Excellent.

**Senior Insurance: Cardiff**  
Partner level opening for solicitor exposed in defendant EL, PL, RT and professional indemnity.

**Construction Litigation: Manchester**  
3-5 yr qual solicitor sought by major firm. Will consider a comm litigator wishing to specialise.

**International Construction Arbitration****Paris****FF Exceptional + relocation****The Firm**

Our client is a pre-eminent global law firm with offices in Europe, the US, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Its European practice specialises in complex, cross-border, financial and commercial transactions, international arbitration and international construction and engineering law.

**The Practice**

The Paris office has an eminent construction and engineering law practice, acting for international clients on projects in Europe and in emerging markets. The Arbitration Group consists of lawyers with experience gained in a number of jurisdictions and its team members:

- represent clients and serve as arbitrators in international arbitration proceedings under the Rules of Arbitration of the ICC and other arbitration rules;
- advise on claims and disputes in relation to international construction contracts; and
- advise in relation to complex international construction projects;

**The Person**

The firm now seeks to appoint a UK qualified lawyer to the Arbitration Group in Paris with the following qualifications:

- 3-6 years' experience with a leading UK firm or set of Chambers, encompassing international litigation/arbitration, with an emphasis on construction and engineering law;
- an additional French or Civil Law degree or professional work experience in France, with a good knowledge of French;
- knowledge or experience of computer law would be a plus; and
- ambitious, hardworking and with the ability to thrive in a multi-cultural environment.

If you are committed to relocating to and developing your experience in Paris, this firm can quickly demonstrate its commitment to you!

For further information or for an informal discussion in complete confidence, please telephone Peter Thompson on 0171 831 2000 or write to him at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Fax 0171 831 6662. Evenings/weekends 0171 630 6079.

**MP****Michael Page Legal**

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**By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**

That Will Carling's continued captaincy had become an issue of public debate was not his choosing, Rowell added.

interest in working with the players which could swell the money available for contracted internationals.



BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

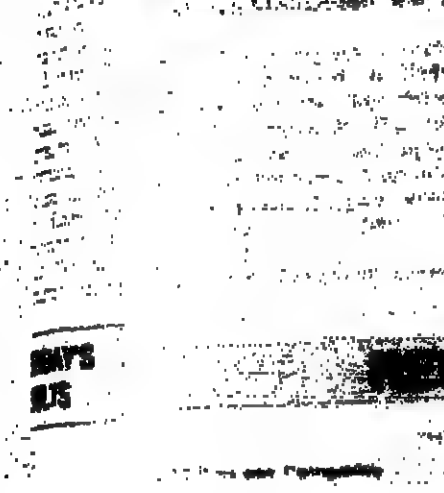
A danger in switching Robinson, apart from possibly blunting his attacking sharpness, is the added disruption that it would cause to the back

The debilitating virus that struck Connolly a week ago was a particularly unfortunate blow, although Martin Offiah has shaken off a troublesome

Western Samoa, in the same group as Wales and France, will have their first training session in Cardiff. John

between codes. "If we recruited some big names from Border clubs, they would still be able to play for them during the winter," he said.

**SQUASH:** A £500,000 sponsorship deal has been secured with the Lees department store group that will keep the British Open championships in Cardiff for the next two years. The event could stay permanently, despite spending 72 years in England before the move to Wales last season. Gerald Lees, the group managing director, said the Welsh capital could compete with any sporting venue in the world.



## RUGBY UNION

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one  
Mortagne 14 Agen 12; Toulouse 19 Toulon  
12; Grenoble 10 Perpignan 8; Nîmes 16  
Clermont 17; Bayonne 10 Nice 15; Pool two  
Bordeaux 18 Brive 18; Dax 27 Colonniers 2  
Montpellier 32 Pau 25; Montpellier 25  
Narbonne 15; Clermont 18 Biarritz 10.  
ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Catania  
Calvisano 9; Piacenza 25 Benetton 20;  
L'Aquila 27 Benetton Treviso 30; Fiemme  
Rovereto 15; Ravenna 10 Milano 10; Parma  
Padova 22 Milan 22.

## SNOOKER

BANGKOK, THAILAND: Classic tour  
tournament. First round: T. Grattini (Wales) bt  
Surin (Thailand) 5-4; J. Wengho (Thai) bt  
Devis (England) 5-4; D. Finbow (Eng) bt  
J. Merold (Eng) 5-4; D. Drago (Austria) bt Y.  
Pool (Malaysia) 5-0. Second round:  
Bond (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-4; D O'Keefe

**SPEEDWAY**

PREMIER LEAGUE: Eastbourne 61 King 104; 45; Swinton 43; Bradford 51.

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. 1000cc (1st) 1000cc Semi-final: Middlesbrough 82 Stiles 60.

CITY OF GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL: A Corner (Long) 64; 55; C. Lewis (Forward) 3; J. Lyons (Star) 10; 4; H. Nielsen.

**SQUASH**

NEWCASTLE: Northampton champions play: Fraser MacFarlane (1st) 7-1; 7-2; 9-6; 0-5; 10-5; 9-0. Women: J. Martin (1st) 9-0; 9-0; 9-2.

**TENNIS**

BASLE: Men's tournament: First: Courier (US) bt J. Smerhek (Aust) 6-7, 7-4, 7-6, 7-5.

ST. LOUIS: Oaks, California: Men's tournament: First: A. Gomez (Esp) bt. Kink (US) 5-7, 8-6.

ST. LOUIS: Women's tournament: First: Kink (US) 6-3, 6-2. Second: A. Smerhek (Aust) 6-3, 6-2. H. Rice (Chile) bt. S. Stiles (US) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6.

**VOLLEYBALL**

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men's First division: Whitefish 3 Winsess 2.

Hit-controlled machine gun used by Nazis a common gun, and the German Army.

Complete suit of heavy scale armour in *Bogues Cataphractarius* described were similarly armoured in scales any history behind the legend of the knightly knights on heavy-horses may survivors after the Fall of the Roman Empire invaders.

carried as identification and tribute to the Roman army. From the our garrison in that substantial way that you have made your grant

award from the Greek. Not only can settings, but also the front part of youring your state to the office as usual use the sampler and Sellotape to fix

**WING CHESS MOVE**

**2.10** **THE CHINESE ECONOMY**

China's economic growth has been remarkable in recent years, driven by a combination of factors including government-led investment, export-led growth, and a growing domestic market. The country's infrastructure development, particularly in transportation and telecommunications, has been a key driver of its economic success. However, challenges remain, including income inequality, environmental degradation, and the need for further reforms to enhance the competitiveness of its manufacturing sector.

**2.40** **EUROPEAN ECONOMY**

The European economy has shown signs of recovery following a period of stagnation. Key factors contributing to this growth include a strong manufacturing sector, a growing services sector, and a focus on innovation and research and development. However, the region still faces challenges such as high unemployment rates, particularly among young people, and the need for further integration and coordination among member states.

**3.10** **SANGLAY'S BONE**

Sanglay's Bone is a traditional Chinese medicine used for various ailments, including pain, inflammation, and bone diseases. It is believed to have a long history of use and is highly valued for its effectiveness. The medicine is typically prepared as a powder or a liquid extract, and is used in a variety of ways, including oral consumption and topical application.



## Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner has Breeders' Cup on agenda

## New York beckons Lammtarra

By OUR RACING STAFF

HAVING established himself as Europe's top middle-distance performer in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on Sunday, Lammtarra will tackle the best America has to offer in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Belmont Park, New York, on October 28.

The Nijinsky colt returned to Newmarket unimpaired by his success and ready for a fresh challenge on what is likely to be his final racecourse appearance. "He has established himself as a true cham-

**Nap: DICTATION**  
(5.10 Redcar)  
Next best Caban Reef  
(4.40 Redcar)

Champion, Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "He has done everything asked of him by winning all of his races. You can't do more than that."

Crisford reported that Godolphin's other Arc runner, Balanchine, had also returned in good health although he was at a loss to explain the filly's poor showing, which saw her trail in tenth of the 16-strong field. "We are unaware of any problem with her, she just seemed to run very lethargically. We will, hopefully, know more later in the week."

As the immediate euphoria subsided, Lammtarra's Arrow-winning performance was being put into statistical perspective. Chris Williams, the senior handicapper at Timeform, said: "We have raised Lammtarra's rating



Sheikh Mohammed and Dettori aim to repeat Sunday's celebrations in the Breeders' Cup

from 128p to 134p, making him the top three-year-old. Obviously, this rating could be revised again after the Breeders' Cup and will be adjusted again when Racehorses of 1995 is published."

The top Timeform rating achieved by an Arc winner was Sea-Bird in 1964, who was awarded a figure of 145. Mill Reef, the only horse before Lammtarra, to complete the Derby-King George-Arc treble, was rated 141 and the top performance since was the 140 set by Dancing Brave in 1986. One man well placed to

draw comparisons between Lammtarra and his predecessors is Mill Reef's trainer, Ian Balding. He said: "That was an excellent performance in Paris. Lammtarra is such a tough horse and, although you wouldn't say he has the brilliant turn of speed of Mill Reef, Nijinsky or Dancing

Brave, he just does it another way."

Lammtarra's jockey, Lanfranco Dettori, began yesterday still basking in the colt's victory. The champion jockey was presented with a bottle of champagne by the Ponsfruct executive after partnering his 196th winner of the season on Warbrook in the opening European Breeders' Fund Claxton Bay Maiden Stakes.

However, the early triumph turned sour when Dettori was referred to the Jockey Club stewards at Portman Square after being found guilty of irresponsible riding on La Alla Wa Asa, who finished sixth in the Caroni Maiden Stakes. It was his third such offence of the season.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohammed, far from resting on his laurels after Lammtarra's success, yesterday confirmed his choice of older horses to be transferred from Europe to Dubai. The list includes Annam, Mirabilis (trained by Michael Stoute), Chantwood Forest (Henry Cecil), Larrocha (Luca Cumani), Diffident (André Fabre), Overbury (David Loder), Linney Head and Tormentor (both John Gosden). A final decision on any two-year-olds to transfer to Dubai will be made at the end of this month.

Richard Hughes, another rider to enjoy a successful weekend, in his case winning the William Hill Cambridgehire at Newmarket on Cap Juluca, has a less attractive assignment today. He faces the Jockey Club stewards in London after being referred for misuse of the whip when riding Half An Inch into second in the A R Dennis September Nursery at Brighton last week.

CHARLES PLATT

## RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

## TOTE CESAIREWITCH

Newmarket, October 14

## GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

Top Cows	1-1	2-1	3-1	4-1	5-1
Saleen	6-1	8-1	9-1	10-1	11-1
Saleen	8-1	10-1	11-1	12-1	13-1
New Reputation	12-1	14-1	15-1	16-1	17-1
Monty Pott	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1
Blaze Alley	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1
Foundry Lane	40-1	42-1	44-1	46-1	48-1
Fortune And Fame	50-1	52-1	54-1	56-1	58-1
Shadwin	60-1	62-1	64-1	66-1	68-1
Star Player	70-1	72-1	74-1	76-1	78-1

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 ZENKIA.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.00 All-Royal.

## WARWICK

THUNDER

1.30 Second Time Lucky. 2.00 Always Happy. 2.30 Northern Delusion. 3.00 Zenkia. 3.30 Much Too High. 4.00 Flamenco. 4.30 Miss Pickpocket. 5.00 All-Royal.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 ZENKIA.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.00 All-Royal.

## GOING GOOD TO SOFT

DRAW NO ADVANTAGE

## 1.30 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

(Div 1: 2-Y-O, £3,915; 6) (15 runners)

104 (8)	58	LE TETU 22 Bob Jones 8-7	
105 (9)	590	ANGUS MCCOATUP 12 B McElhattan 8-5	
106 (10)		COMBOS MEMO 02 C McGuire 8-6	
106 (13)	426	SECOND TIME LUCKY 21 (BF) Lord Harrington	
107 (11)	40	BELRAY PARK 36 Mrs A King 8-4	
108 (12)	1068	COMBOS 12 John Barry 8-5	
109 (13)		COMBOS UP 01	
110 (14)	56	LEWISER DELOR 35 L Farnham 8-4	
111 (7)	220	MEMO'S MEMORY 13 (6) John Barry 7-12	
112 (9)		ROCKET GROUND 13 Cumo 7-12	
113 (15)	40	SIMPLY MISS CHIEF 21 D Arshavell 7-12	
114 (9)		CURRIERTESS 8 Pating 7-11	
115 (5)	2524	LUCKY GIRL 20 J Wilson 7-11	
3-1	3	Second Time Lucky, 7-1 Wang's Memory, 8-1 Vazzy Girl, Comoros Ethel, Angus McCoatup, Rosal Guinness, 14-1 other	







# Top draw too good for the lower classes

Camelot, we are told, is unhappy with a new play written by the BBC for Nigel Williams, the author who gave us *The Wimbledon Poisoner* and all that bad language. Apparently, the organiser of the National Lottery felt that the winner of the lottery, a south London electrician with the slogan No Job Too Small, was rather too downmarket for its liking.

So goodness knows what it must be of last night's *2Point4 Children* (BBC1), which returned with an entire episode dedicated to debunking Mystic Meg and her bonus balls. The good news for Camelot was that Ben (Gary Olsen) did not win. He may drive a big American car, but he is, after all, only a lowly central heating repair man whose slogan is often No Job Too All. The bad news was that Bill (Belinda Lang), a sex-ball, sceptic if ever there was one, might well have.

Camelot may have got lottery tickets taken out of *Pride and Prejudice* on Sunday night (sharp-eyed viewers may have spotted that only whilst seemed to be on offer at Aunt Phillips's soirée, but it could do nothing to curb the doubting pen of Andrew Marshall last night.

"It's nothing but a tax on stupidity," complained Bill. "It's a totally inefficient way of giving to charity and the chances of winning are tiny." Heresy indeed. I paused, half-expecting that big gold hand to descend and give her a good slap.

But there was worse to come. Helped by her daughter Jenny (Clare Buckfield) and hindered by Ben, Bill calculated the odds of winning — more than 5 billion to one, by her reckoning. "Ah, but you've forgotten the bonus ball," replied her ever-optimistic spouse, who had defied their house rules by buying a ticket on the ground

that it was a rollover week. Presumably as balance for his up-to-the-minute central theme (which included perhaps the first ever gag about statistics on national television — "don't forget the factorials") Marshall littered his script with asides that bordered on the antique: Sooty, Brotherhood of Man... there was even a joke about Cecil Parkinson. Now, most of us haven't heard a Cecil Parkinson joke for at least five years and even then they were old, but this was the BBC's second in two months. The first was David Croft's. Now it was Marshall's turn. Do they know something we don't? Not if the jokes are anything to go by.

Nevertheless, *2Point4 Children* remains a gently superior sit-com, helped by the fact that the younger Porters (increasingly well played by Buckfield, and John Pickard as her

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

brother David) have now reached an age when they can act as effective comic foils to the experienced likes of Lang and Olsen.

Towards the end of the opening episode, Bill was almost won over to Ben's viewpoint. "Just think what we could do with that," she said dreamily, as the size of the jackpot was announced. For a moment, it sounded like the cue for a song. But then I remembered —

they only do that for the Christmas special.

Goodness knows what the average number of children per nanny was in Cutting Edge: Nannies (Channel 4). I lost count when that family of ten came along. "Hello, children," said Janine from Yorkshire — very gamely. Any sane person would have muttered "Bye children" and turned on their sensibly flat heels and fled.

Quite how a film about recruiting nannies fits into a format called Cutting Edge defeats me. It's about as cutting edge as that other great documentary banker, wedding preparations. But that complaint apart, Dornie Watt's film has an undeniable voyeuristic appeal — even for the great un-named.

As a female cast of thousands (from the successful to the sacked) came and went, the stars of the show were the Hunters — Francesca, Jason and the newly haired

Josh. She was a lawyer, loath to leave her child but anxious to get back to work. He was the very epitome of modern Putney patriarchy, all pin-stripes and Pampers.

Their search for a nanny should have been so easy. But that would have made a lousy film. Turned down by one because they didn't have a second car and ignored by another, their misery was... well, frankly, a joy to behold. "I never really thought they might reject us," moaned Jason, apparently aghast at discovering that material things were quite so important.

But my favourites were the Yorkshire nannies: Janine, who didn't seem her committed membership of the Girls Brigade (which she described as a "uniformed Christian organisation") as any obstacle to employment, and Catherine, who came down for interviews in London with her mother. "We're Tube

fanatics," said her mother cheerily. Two interviews later, however, Catherine and mum were in a taxi, hot-footing it back to King's Cross and the fast train to Leeds. I couldn't blame them.

A little earlier, Gary Sinyor had wisely written three decently sized parts for a trio of comic veterans. Alfred Marks, Peter Jones and Willy Rushton, in the extraordinary *One for the Road* (Channel 4). This, at least, meant we could spend a lot of the time wondering why we don't see more of them on television these days. But sadly, that still left plenty for speculating how this indulgent, Camcordered waddle got on to our screens and a good minute or two for wondering how Alan Davies, as timeshare salesman Simon Treat, manages to combine the vocal styles of Eddie Izzard and Sir David Frost without being remotely funny. Still, only one more episode to go. I may yet see the light.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (46357)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (8638715)
- 9.05am Dallas — The Final Years (i) (Cesat) (2663572)
- 9.50am Brilliant Gardens (i) (877425)
- 10.00am News (Cesat) regional news and weather (5534932)
- 10.05am Conference Live 98: The Labour Party. Nick Ross reports from Brighton (i) (8494057)
- 12.05pm Regional News and weather (5546133)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (Cesat) and weather (72767)
- 1.30pm Neighbours. Susan is shocked by Libby's solution to school-leaving. Stonetree's father comes to town and Marlene is overjoyed by the prodigal's return (Cesat) (i) (4726743) 1.55pm All in the Family Jones (i) (7334883) 2.40pm The Family Man (7375822) 3.05pm The Great British Quiz (i) (865338)
- 3.30pm Blinky Bill (80) 4.00pm Oscar's Orchestra (i) (8057115) 4.25pm Alvin and the Chipmunks (i) (8057135) 4.35pm Pan TG (Cesat) (i) (2917970)
- 5.00pm Newsround (Cesat) (9178590) 5.15pm Blythe Grove (Cesat) (2488945)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (i) (Cesat) (i) (268645)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Cesat) and weather (86)
- 6.30pm Regional News magazine (16)
- 7.00pm Natural News. Back to Nature. Westbound in Borneo: In the heart of the rainforest, John McCarthy and Sandi Toksvold are investigating the impact of the logging industry on the rainforest. They take a trip to the heart of the rainforest, where they meet the local people and see the impact of logging on the rainforest. (Cesat) (i) (86514)
- 7.30pm Eastenders. Passions rise as Michelle confronts Grant in the Vic. (Cesat) (i) (22)
- 8.00pm Dads. Comedy-drama series starring Paul Giamatti (Cesat) (i) (505553)
- 8.50pm How to Be a Little Bit. Comedy with Rick Mayall (Cesat) (i) (18728)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Cesat) regional news and weather (8154)
- 9.30pm One Foot in the Grave. The McLeods return from a disastrous Greek holiday to find their home has been destroyed by fire (i) (Cesat) (81538)
- 10.00pm Crimewatch UK. Presented by Nick Ross and Jill Dando (Cesat) (i) (857408)
- 10.45pm Clive James — Postcard from New York. Clive James visits the Big Apple. He joins an armed policeman on New York's infamous subway and mulls over his advice on avoiding trouble. Don't go out at night (i) (Cesat) (i) (888655)
- 11.40pm Crimewatch UK Update (891446)
- 11.50pm Film: Last Summer (1995). With Barbara Hershey and Richard Gere. A provocative love story, this is a love story on its beach during the summer. But the relationship changes when they meet the lonely, vulnerable Phoebe, and evil manifests itself. Directed by Frank Perry (Cesat) (249406)
- 1.20am Weather (9134100)



Patsy Kensit and Brian Tully (7.30pm)

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## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
As London except: 12.55pm Emmerdale (865338) 1.25pm Home and Away (2255245) 2.55pm The Bill (865338) 3.55pm The Bill (865338) 4.55pm The Bill (865338) 5.55pm The Bill (865338) 6.55pm The Bill (865338) 7.55pm The Bill (865338) 8.55pm The Bill (865338) 9.55pm The Bill (865338) 10.55pm The Bill (865338) 11.55pm The Bill (865338) 12.55pm The Bill (865338) 1.55pm The Bill (865338) 2.55pm The Bill (865338) 3.55pm The Bill (865338) 4.55pm The Bill (865338) 5.55pm The Bill (865338) 6.55pm The Bill (865338) 7.55pm The Bill (865338) 8.55pm The Bill (865338) 9.55pm The Bill (865338) 10.55pm The Bill (865338) 11.55pm The Bill (865338) 12.55pm The Bill (865338) 1.55pm The Bill (865338) 2.55pm The Bill (865338) 3.55pm The Bill (865338) 4.55pm The Bill (865338) 5.55pm The Bill (865338) 6.55pm The Bill (865338) 7.55pm The Bill (865338) 8.55pm The Bill (865338) 9.55pm The Bill (865338) 10.55pm The Bill (865338) 11.55pm The Bill (865338) 12.55pm The Bill (865338) 1.55pm The Bill (865338) 2.55pm The Bill 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## Scandinavian leaders spearhead attack on Chirac's South Pacific programme

## Euro ministers say French nuclear test undermines Union

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN LUXEMBOURG AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE's latest nuclear test cast a pall over a European ministers' session in Luxembourg yesterday, clouding talk of an Atlantic free trade area and adding to a malaise among the smaller states over the Union's direction.

Anger over yesterday's high-yield test at Fangatau atoll in the South Pacific echoed around Brussels and Luxembourg. The EU Com-

mission abandoned its previous stance and said it that deplored the blast.

At a Luxembourg EU meeting, Scandinavian ministers led the attack on Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, charging him with flouting the wishes of the European people and undermining the Union. Ministers from all the EU states except Britain, Germany, Italy,

Spain and Portugal spoke out against President Chirac.

"We are very, very disappointed," Lena Hjelm-Wallen, the Swedish Foreign Minister, said. "We had hoped that the reaction around the world would have stopped the tests." Niels Helveg-Petersen, the Danish Minister, said that German silence did not imply approval. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, noted that it was "up to France to justify" its decision to test.

There will be no more nuclear tests as far as the United Kingdom is concerned," he added. The opposing states lamented the disarray which they said French behaviour was inflicting on the Union at a time when confidence was being sapped by doubts over monetary union and other issues. "It seems Chirac does not give a hoot about Europe," a senior Nordic official said. Mr Rifkind, however, said that it would serve to "bring home the fact that different member states have different foreign policy and defence priorities."

M de Charette said that most of the noise was coming from the media rather than other governments. "I do not think this is damaging French diplomacy," he said.

The French device had an explosive force estimated at six times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The second explosion in the new series of tests was beneath Fangatau atoll-750 miles southeast of Tahiti. It was "less than 110 kilotonnes", according to the Defence Ministry, and intended to evaluate the 150-kilotonne TN75 warhead that will be carried by France's five Triomphant-class submarines.

Under longer-term plans the French propose to replace the M45 missile with the M5 system which will have ten to 12 warheads and a range of 6,000 miles. Deployment of the even bigger missile system is planned for about 2010.

The latest nuclear test was aimed at certifying the performance characteristics of the TN75 warhead for the M45 missile. Although 22 previous tests had been carried out during development, the



Greenpeace activists occupying the roof of the French Ambassador's residence in London yesterday

## Warhead linked to new submarines

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE's latest nuclear test was part of its strategic deterrent modernisation programme which is currently under review.

The French Navy's five Redoubtable-class submarines, each armed with 16 M4 missiles, are being replaced by a new Triomphant-class boat which will have the updated and longer-range M45 missile.

Under longer-term plans the French propose to replace the M45 missile with the M5 system which will have ten to 12 warheads and a range of 6,000 miles. Deployment of the even bigger missile system is planned for about 2010.

The latest nuclear test was aimed at certifying the performance characteristics of the TN75 warhead for the M45 missile. Although 22 previous tests had been carried out during development, the

French military said it needed one final experiment.

The future of France's strategic systems and the structure of French armed forces is currently the subject of a comprehensive review ordered by the Chirac Government. Unlike Britain and other Nato countries, France had postponed a defence review following the end of the Cold War. However, President Chirac ordered a full examination of security requirements and a report is expected early next year. The M45 and M5 systems are both included in the review.

The current proposal is to fit the M45 missile system with its TN75 warhead to the four Triomphant-class submarines and to refit them with the M5 at a later date. The number of Triomphant-class submarines has already been cut from six to four.

## TESTING OF FRANCE'S LATEST MISSILE WARHEAD AND HOW IT COMPARES

French M45 missile	British Trident D5 missile
Warheads: six TN75s of 150 kilotons each	Warheads: eight of 100-120 kilotons each
Range: 3,750 miles	Range: 6,750 miles
Length: 35ft	Length: 44ft
Diameter: 6ft	Diameter: 7ft
Launch weight: 35,000 kilos	Launch weight: 58,000 kilos
To be replaced in 2010 by M5 missile	
M5 warheads: 10-12 TN75s of 150 kilotons each	
Range: 6,000 miles	



British Vanguard class: Length: 457ft; Width: 42ft; Height: 39.4ft; Missiles: 16 Trident D5s

## Explosion renews wave of protests

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE's explosion of a second nuclear bomb in the South Pacific yesterday sparked angry protests throughout the Pacific region.

Paul Keating, Australia's Prime Minister, immediately said: "The test ignores the understandable outrage in the international community at the first French test. France's good name in the region and around the world has been further damaged. Australia's efforts to press France to abandon its nuclear test programme will be unceasing and unrelenting."

In New Zealand, Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, added: "There is a great sense of frustration that France seems determined not to listen to the voice of the Pacific, the voice of world leaders at home in Europe or anywhere else."

Top-level protests regretting the test also came from Japan, Russia and Norway. In Australia, New Zealand and Japan, French ambassadors were summoned to meetings to receive a formal protest.

The New Zealand Government is resisting strong pressure from opposition parties to sever diplomatic ties with France. The South Pacific Forum, a grouping of 15 independent nations, is likely to move to suspend France as a dialogue partner. New Zealand and Papua New Guinea yesterday reiterated their support for such action.

Anti-French protesters in Sydney and Canberra marched on French consulates while Australian unions declared a 24-hour strike on refuelling French aircraft. In Norway, many workers stopped work for five minutes at midday to protest against French and Chinese testing.

In Papeete, the Tahiti capital, the mood was tense with more than a thousand French police on stand-by to avert any repetition of the riots that followed the first test.

In London, 20 Greenpeace activists were being held by police last night after climbing on to the roof of the French Ambassador's official residence. The organisation condemned the explosion as "totally outrageous".

## Blast churns atoll lagoon into foam

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A BRIGHT flash and a sea of foaming water signalled to the world France's second nuclear explosion of the present series, at Fangatau atoll, in the South Pacific yesterday, as the magnitude of the huge blast turned the lagoon white.

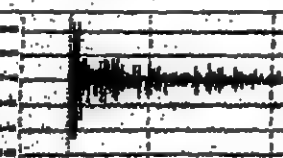
Television film of the test, taken by the French military authorities, was the only material broadcast around the Pacific region: a Greenpeace vessel, the *Manatee*, whose crew had been hoping to film the blast, was seized by French marines shortly before the test.

The 110-kilotonne explosion, set off by the turn of a key by French military officials in bunkers hidden deep in Fangatau atoll, quickly spread out across the water in a huge ring as the sea began to bubble. Ken Muirhead, an official of the Australian Seismological Centre, said that the

blast was "one of the largest nuclear explosions ever recorded."

The Australian Geological Survey Organisation, which registered the blast in Canberra 12 minutes after it occurred, said the explosion had registered at ten times the intensity of the shockwaves of the first blast, which took place on September 5. Greenpeace says that Fangatau atoll was chosen for the second test because of its remoteness. The site of the first in the series was too fragile to withstand the greater blast.

It is believed that the second test was carried out to check the reliability of the TN75 warhead, which will equip new French submarines next year. A spokesman for the French military said: "The goal of this test was to guarantee the safety and reliability of the weapons in the future."



A seismograph records yesterday's explosion

## Nigerian TV shows excerpts from plot trial

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LAGOS



Abacha: his conviction led to worldwide protests

THE Nigerian military Government was accused yesterday of playing games with the liberty of its citizens after state-controlled television showed excerpts of a secret court plot trial hours after sentences on 40 alleged plotters were commuted.

The videotape of the trial, screened on Sunday night, purported to show that there were two plots, which later converged, against the Government of General Sani Abacha. The trial excerpts conveyed that General Abacha had ordered the former ruler, and his former deputy, Major-General Shethu

Yar'Adna, met the alleged leaders and supported their plans. The conviction of General Abacha, widely respected in the West, at a secret military trial earlier this year provoked protests around the world and threats of sanctions against Nigeria.

In the face of mounting international pressure, General Abacha on Sunday commuted sentences on the accused, 14 of whom faced execution, but did not specify what the prison terms would be. He also gave details of a three-year transition to civilian rule. In the film, the narrator portrayed retired

Colonel Sambo Dasuki, an exiled fugitive, as the leader of the main plot in which General Abacha would be assassinated by a bomb at a Muslim praying ground or the presidency in Abuja, the capital, would be stormed. The other plot also involved exiled Nigerians and was allegedly hatched in neighbouring Benin.

One independent newspaper described the film as "a revealing testimony" but Gani Fawehinmi, one of the leading opposition figures not behind bars, said the film was faked and televised to make General Abacha look mag-

nanimous. Critics of the Abacha regime have accused it of dreaming up the coup plot last March to crack down on pro-democracy campaigners and divert pressure for the return to civilian rule.

A senior Western diplomat said that there was no evidence to convict General Abacha and warned General Abacha that he was "playing with fire".

"He is clearly trying to tease out of us further approval for the transition process. This is playing games with people's liberty," the diplomat said.

Leading article, page 17

## Army kills 51 Tigers in Jaffna offensive

FROM REUTERS IN COLOMBO

AB OUT 51 Tamil Tiger guerrillas were killed in a Sri Lankan Army offensive that led to the capture of a number of towns in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, a military communiqué said yesterday. The army lost 19 men.

The offensive, codenamed Thunder Strike, involved three army brigades backed by tanks and artillery. The soldiers, advancing from Palaly air base on the northern tip of Jaffna at dawn on Sunday, overran guerrilla positions to the south, it said. "By afternoon troops captured an area of eight square miles, including Achchuvelli, Thoppu, Navakkeri, Vavuniya, Puthur, Pathamoni, Avarankadu, Iddakadu and Vallai."

The troops faced initial resistance from the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "Subsequently the terrorists started withdrawing further to the south," the communiqué said. "The operation is in progress."

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe had denied on Sunday that the troop movement signalled the start of the planned major offensive against the

Tigers which has been expected before monsoon rains start in the middle of the month.

The rebel Tiger Radio reported heavy fighting in Jaffna on Sunday. It said tanks and armoured vehicles were moving towards rebel-held areas, and that shells had been hitting the Achchuvelli area since Sunday morning. At least five civilians were killed, it said. There had also been heavy fighting at the key Elephant Pass, which links the government-controlled southern mainland with the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The Government has said it wants to crush the Tigers after they unilaterally broke a truce in April and resumed hostilities, refusing to study a government peace plan offering extensive autonomy to Tamils. Anuruddha Ratwatte, the Deputy Defence Minister, was quoted yesterday as saying Colombo would not slow down or abandon the war but it would be fought to a finish within two or three months. Once the 12-year-old war was over, a political solution to the ethnic problem was necessary for lasting peace, he added.

## Kenyan spared gallows

Nakuru: Kolgi wa Wamwere, Kenya's leading dissident, and two defendants were sentenced to four years' jail and six strokes of the cane after being found guilty of attempting to steal weapons from a police station. The charge of mounting an armed raid on a police station, which carries a mandatory death sentence, was dropped. (Reuters)

## Dual control

Moroni: Comoros coup leader, Captain Combo Ayoubou, freed from jail by Colonel Bob Déard, appointed two civilian residents as anger grew against the mercenaries. But not backed removal of President Djohar. (Reuters)

## form havoc

Manila: President Ramosela on a working visit to the Philippines state of calamity 29 provinces and 27 cities ravaged by tropical typhoon Sybil. More than 100 died. (Reuters)

## Cambodia delays British doctor's rape hearing

FROM AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN PHNOM PENH

THE trial of a British doctor charged with raping five Cambodian boys has been postponed after the escape of a former Buddhist monk alleged to have procured minors for the doctor, court officials said yesterday.

The former monk, Sonantak Vitak, was arrested on Friday and charged with rape and conspiracy to commit rape but escaped on Saturday as he

was being brought to court, said Nob Sophon, deputy chief of Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

Depending on the decision of a judge, the monk was to have been either a witness or a co-defendant in the trial of Gavin Scott, who was arrested in June on suspicion of paedophilia after five teenage boys complained to the police that Dr Scott had assaulted them. The trial was to have begun today.

Court sources quoted by the *Cambodia Daily* newspaper said that the monk may also be charged with pimping. He may also face charges of kidnapping.

Dr Scott's lawyer, Samuel Oum, confirmed that the case had been postponed indefinitely. Dr Scott, who had operated a private practice in the capital for several years, has been held in Phnom Penh's notorious colonial-era prison and has been refused bail. The rape charge carries a three to five-year prison term on conviction.

The five teenagers complained to police with the help of the Cambodian branch of End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism. The group has come under fire from a growing number of foreigners, who have sent letters to the editor of local newspapers, contending that the private group has conducted the entire investigation and has interfered with Dr Scott's ability to prepare a defence by opposing his release on bail. The group has declined to comment.

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Middle-class parents need tax breaks to help with the cost of childcare, not a child benefit handout that should go to the poor

## Nanny state for working parents



NIGELLA LAWSON

ALL TAX is about taking with one hand in order to give with another, so why carp at any new variation on this theme? Why should John Prescott's attempt to come up with a wheeze that miraculously keeps the principle of universal benefits intact while destroying it in practice seem such an inappropriate way to deal with the hoary old question of child benefit? The reason is only partly because the attempt at a legend in this particular instance shows such hamfistedness.

It doesn't help that it looks like such a dishonest move. Not dishonest in the sense of corrupt, certainly, but dishonest in the sense of fudging the issue. There is only one way to deal with child benefit and that is to scrap it as a universal benefit. I don't believe the Blairite Labour Party for one instant feels any other way either. It's just that the principle of universal benefits is the last enduring one; to dispense with this really would seem to dismantle Labour's whole political philosophy.

That's how it seems, certainly, but it's not how it is. The Labour Party must

surely be brave and honest enough to show that it recognises the difference and face that it has a choice: either it remains true to the letter of the principle, and keeps child benefit as a universal benefit, or it remains true to the spirit of the principle. That would mean conclusively doing away with it.

While there are children and families living in poverty it cannot be right that equal amounts of state cash go to fund those whose need is not merely lesser, but, relatively speaking, non-existent. I feel fiercely that I don't want the sort of two-tier society produced by the ghettoisation of education and the means-related split in the standard of medical care that we have now; but I see universal child benefit as something apart.

Education and medicine should be equally available to all. Ignorance and illness are both, in a manner of speaking,

disabilities any government has a duty to relieve for our sake as well as, in a broader sense, society's, but children are not a disability. Why should I be compensated by the State for having a child? I don't mean that all child benefit should therefore be scrapped; but rather a great deal of it should be raised.

Those who can afford to clothe, keep and feed their child should not be paid £10.20 as well as those who cannot get by. Better that someone else gets £20 for a child, us nothing. It sounds terribly *de haut en bas* to speak like that, but I do fervently believe "to each according to his needs" and so forth.

It was always said that child benefit was paid as a universal benefit to the

mother, because even a company director could be mean, cruel and neglectful, drinking away his high salary at the golf club. I don't argue about that precisely, but it is no longer appropriate to the way we live now to see the man as breadwinner and manager of the family's finances. The company director, for that matter, may well be a woman.

Of course, taking away their benefit might not be a very tactful way to deal with the middle classes right now. But what if universal child benefit were scrapped and substituted by universal tax relief on childcare? By universal I mean a tax relief on all forms of nannies, nurseries, fees for child-minders and workplace crèches paid at the lower tax rate. It would help the single

mother who wants to go out to work and support her own child as much as the proverbial shoulder-padded high-flyer complete with baby and briefcase.

Yes, this would seem unfair to those who don't have children and are therefore, to some degree, subsidising those who do (though it would be more accurate to think of it as subsidising the children rather than their parents). But the existence of child benefit already enshrines the idea that children constitute some sort of special group, towards which it is worth targeting state funds. Indeed, this perhaps is one of its important functions: it says that the welfare of children is crucial to society and not just to the parents.

A universal tax relief that was not geared specifically to the higher tax bracket would surely do the same, and would enable more people to work as well

as provide employment while it does so. And just to ensure that it doesn't produce a sort of state-sanctioned, state-subsidised real-life *Upstairs Downstairs* set, a minimum wage payable to childminders should be initiated as part of the tax-relief bargain. Over to you Mr Blair.

### Measure of protest

THE Conservative Party's own militant tendency, the Tunbridge Wells brigade, has been out in force over Metrication Day. Its notional spokesman, in the person of Sir George Gardiner, claims that "pounds, ounces... are part of our Anglo-Saxon inheritance". Up to a point Sir George. But since once comes from the Latin *uncia*, from which root also comes the Latin *poundo* it would be absurd to claim these measures to be triumphs of Anglo-Saxon civilisation.

You could argue that what we are doing now is just trading in one European measure for another — just a new-fangled way of accepting that when in Rome...

### Labour's first lady joins the corset revival

## Leadership? It's a cinch

Just what was it that Cherie Blair was wearing at Brighton, racecourse on Sunday? Experts agreed yesterday that she is the latest recruit to fashion's great corset revival. Her idiosyncratic costume of flat ankle boots, black leggings and lace-trimmed top, surmounted overall by a wide leather corset belt, made her look like a rather timid Miss Whiplash.

The designer collections earlier this year featured the corset in a variety of styles and fabrics. Rib cages creaked and bosoms heaved up and down the catwalks in gingham corsets by Vivienne Westwood, black leather by Jean-Paul Gaultier (as worn by Pamela Anderson), and satin by Karl Lagerfeld.

Agent Provocateur in Soho, which sells corsets to trendy, gentry — both men and women — describes Cherie's belt as a "waist cincher". A spokesman declares that she is in the forefront of fashion. "It is a popular item and we have been selling a lot of waist cinchers this year. As well as belting like that they often lace it up the back."

But Mary Spillane, owner of lounge-consignments Colour Me Beautiful, who advised the Liberal Democrats on image at their conference last month, has grave fears for the dignity of Labour's first lady. "Her outfit had definite shades of S&M," she says, "and it is certainly not a proper look for a potential leader's wife."

Most politicians' wives insist on dressing over-cautiously. But, with Mrs Blair's endorsement, fashion experts say the corset has come out of the closet.

KATHERINE BERGEN



Cherie Blair at Brighton: forefront of fashion?

## Women, men and friendship

Anne McElvoy on the problems of keeping a relationship platonic

For all the smutty jokes doing the rounds about rugby captains, princesses and scoring tries, not even the most prurient tabloid researcher has so far produced any solid evidence that Will Carling and the Princess of Wales have ever been romantically involved with one another.

Julia Carling, who left the family home muttering about "losing my husband to a woman over which I have no control", has referred only to her husband's "foolish friendship". Will and Di apparently spent their assignations at a health club: a distinctly unpassionate location. Much has been made of the hot and heavy spectacle of them thrashing their way round the weights circuits together. This is the neo-gyn-gov's view of gym. With their ascetic ethos lightened only by the odd post-training treat of a bulgar-wheat salad and mineral water, health clubs are definitely not sexy. Restaurants are for lovers; circuit training is for friends.

It is possible then, that the Carlings' young marriage has foundered not over an affair, but over a friendship which proved a source of relaxation and stimulation to one partner, while being perceived as an instance of disloyalty and threat by the other.

They would not be the first couple to fall apart over an extramarital relationship

which was "only" a friendship. Our culture lays such stress on fidelity that any other external relationship is deemed harmless by comparison with adultery. But a strong friendship can be a challenge to even the deepest romantic bond.

Modern thinking on friendship after marriage is hopelessly muddled. "We all want to be part of the liberal consensus about not owning one another and allowing the other partner space and choices," says Denise Knowles, a counsellor with Relate, the marriage guidance service. "But the heart has a way of reclaiming our more basic emotions with sudden shafts of primitive jealousy."

Indeed, as Gordon Clanton, an American sociology professor who has made a study of jealousy throughout the ages says: "The idea that you should feel bad about being envious of your partner's other bonds is very recent — a result of the sexual revolution. It used to be considered quite natural and complementary."

There cannot be many of us who did not feel a dash of uncomfortable recognition on hearing Billy Crystal tell Meg Ryan in Nora Ephron's film *When Harry Met Sally*: "Men and women can't be friends because the sex part always gets in the way. No man can be friends with a woman he finds attractive."



The world took a hostile view of Diana and Will's claim to be "only friends"

"So you can be friends with a woman you don't find attractive?" says Sally. "No," counters Harry, "you pretty much want to nail them too."

Suspensions about the robustness of platonic love when confronted with the temptations of the flesh are ingrained in us. When Plato advanced the idea of non-sexual, refined love between Socrates and young men, there was sniggering in the salons of Athens about the supposed baser intentions of the philosopher and he was ultimately forced to drink hemlock for corrupting the morals of the young.

Spiritual leaders have, traditionally, sought inspiration from female followers — think of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene, or how Gandhi collected rich Hindu women followers and tested his own resolve by taking young women to bed with him but refraining from carnal encounters.

Platonic links can be a

rewarding part of life. They appear to be more common in the upper-middle and upper classes than among the rank and file. Even before Diana, royalty made something of a speciality of them. Elizabeth I had non-sexual but loving relationships with her advisers William and Robert Cecil; Queen Victoria and Benjamin Disraeli.

As nice-but-dim Will is finding out, the outside world has always taken a coarse and usually hostile view of platonic love. This makes it a risky pastime for those who live in the public eye. The thought of your husband having an extra Aqua Libra and a giggle about thigh bruises with his attractive female squash partner is tolerable. The sight of his photograph in the next day's paper against a story reading "Tired and glowing, they laughed and joked together in the bar, oblivious to the world around them" most certainly is not.

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# Jobs aren't so cheap, Mr Brown

Anatole Kaletsky says Labour can't rewrite economic laws

If only it were so easy. "Our plan is nothing less than to abolish youth unemployment," Gordon Brown announced to the Labour Party conference yesterday. "No young person should spend years without a job," declared the Shadow Chancellor. Surely every right-minded person in Britain or any other country would say "Amen" to that. People around the world — whether they vote Republican or Democrat, Gaullist or Socialist, Tory, Liberal Democrat or Monster Raving Loony — are desperate to find a cure for the social cancer of an idle, rootless, unemployable, crime-ridden young underclass. But Mr Brown's long oration left unanswered the two most important questions that have to be asked about any miracle cure: how and why?

How can the Shadow Chancellor be so sure that "under Labour no young person will spend years without a job"? And if the cure for youth unemployment were so cheap and obvious, why did nobody think of it before?

It is not as if Mr Brown's approach is so costly that other politicians would not dare touch it. His entire enterprise could be financed several times over by the windfall profits tax on utilities he has sensibly promised. His entire programme is supposed to require only a one-off payment of £1 billion, followed by much lower spending in subsequent years. But even if the cost

If the answer were obvious, it would have been found

turned out to be £1 billion annually, this would be a small and easily affordable price to pay for such a social boon. The windfall profits tax, through which Mr Brown plans to raise about £3 billion, could be raised to around £10 billion without unduly upsetting the financial markets or putting upward pressure on utility charges. A tax on that scale would be easily sufficient to fund £1 billion of special spending on unemployment every year.

From a different perspective, the extra £1 billion of public spending on job creation would easily be affordable even for a Tory Government bent on cutting taxes, or at least appearing to do so. This sum is not much more than the margin for error in a single month's estimate of the public sector borrowing requirement. If £1 billion could really provide the cost-free guarantee against youth unemployment that Mr Brown is now offering, the most Scrooge-like Tory Chancellor would have spent the money gladly before now.

And even if you believe, with Mr Brown, that the Tories are too stupid and dogmatic to grab such a sure-fire election winner, this surely cannot be true of every other political party in every other country. If getting young people into jobs is merely a matter of offering prospective employers a modest tax rebate (£50 a week in Mr Brown's plan), then why are France, Italy, Spain and Sweden — which have tried very similar measures — all suffering from much higher

unemployment than Britain? France and Italy each spend 0.9 per cent of their gross domestic product on the kind of "active labour market measures" advocated by Mr Brown. This compares with the 0.5 per cent of GDP now spent in Britain and 0.2 per cent in America. Yet unemployment and youth unemployment are both much higher in France and Italy than in Britain or America. In both continental countries, around 30 per cent of the 16-25 age group are registered as unemployed. Even in Australia and Sweden, which Mr Brown takes as models, the unemployment rates for 16 to 24-year-olds were 16.2 per cent and 16.6 per cent respectively in 1994 — exactly the same as in Britain.

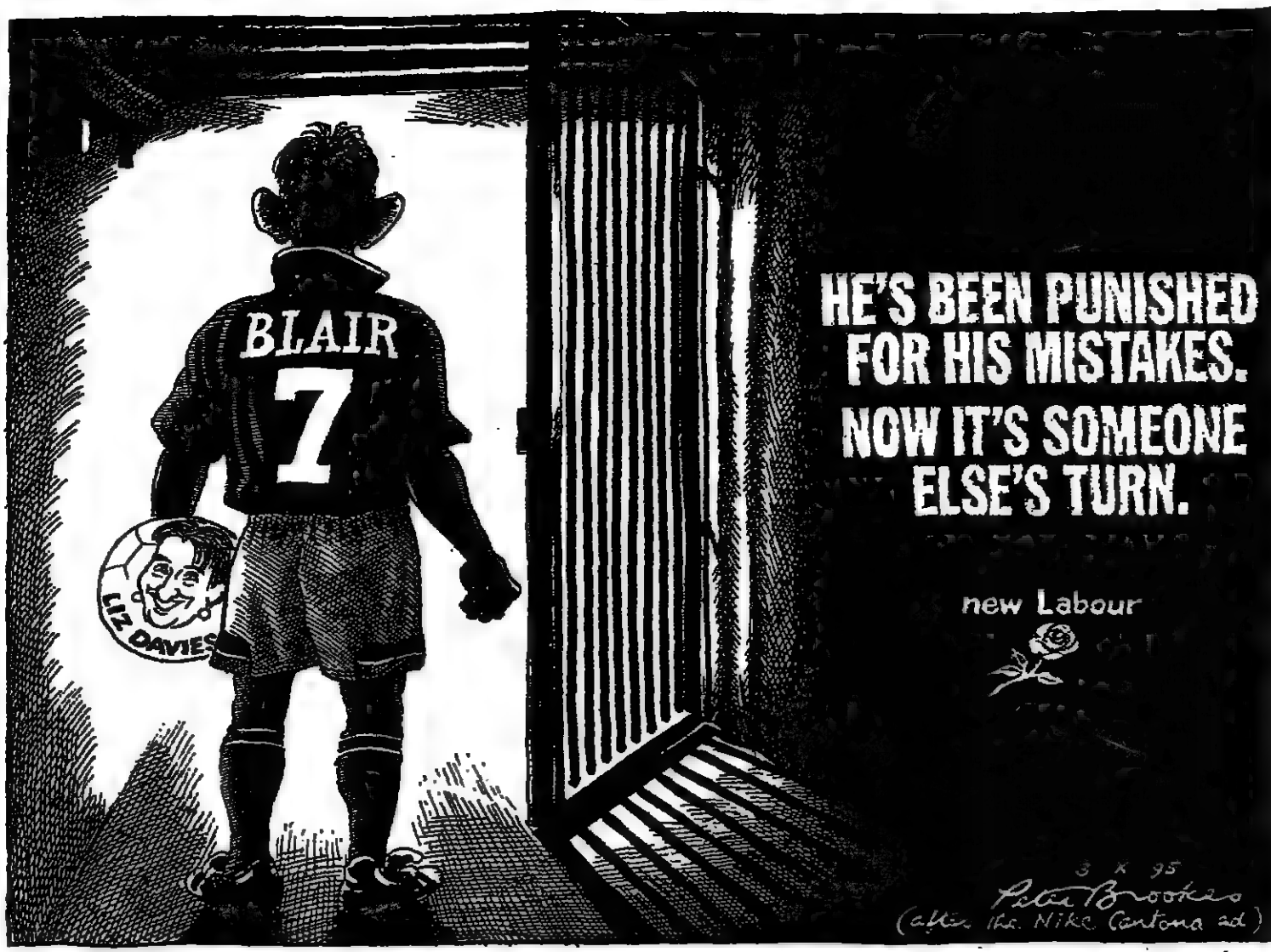
Nowhere in the world has a job-creation scheme been devised that overcomes an awkward fact of economics: the jobs created through targeted subsidies mostly displace unsubsidised jobs. If Mr Brown promises that everyone under 25 will find a job, and backs this guarantee with public money, the main consequence will be to put more of the older generation out of work. The total number of jobs in the economy cannot be increased by subsidies. It depends on the monetary, fiscal and exchange-rate policies pursued by the Government, and on the average level of real wages relative to profits.

The experience of countries on the Continent shows that beyond adventure that too tight a monetary policy or too high a minimum wage has far more effect on unemployment than all the targeted subsidies in the world.

This does not prove, as some free-market radicals contend, that all employment subsidies are a waste of money and a political deception. There is a commonsense appeal in the idea that the Government should convert unemployment benefits into training or work subsidies, instead of supporting idleness. There is also some evidence that people are more likely to find unsubsidised jobs after experiencing regular work. Above all, there is a clear moral case for giving young people the sense that they are socially useful citizens, rather than parasites.

Without special subsidies, youth unemployment in continental Europe would almost certainly be even higher than it is today. And even in Tory Britain, special employment measures quite similar to those proposed by Mr Brown have played a part in easing long-term and youth unemployment. Indeed, the total spent on such active labour market measures is already some £3 billion a year. Beside this, Mr Brown's extra £1 billion can hardly be described as extravagant.

If Mr Brown's ideas can help to achieve this, they deserve a fair wind. But to claim that such small palliatives will offer a permanent cure to mass unemployment is a cruel deception.



## Our wedding vows

Marriages that fail fascinate us because we long for our own to work

That observant bachelor E.M. Forster wrote in *Howards End* about the way, after a wedding, that an "astounding glass shade interposes between married couples and the world". For all our frankness and agony-columns, that shade still falls, clack, every time. Sometimes the shock is so great that the newly married crash out through the shade in precipitate panic: most couples who split up do so within the first few years. The longer it lasts, the longer it is going to last, as a rule, and what is more, the less likely the outside world is ever to understand why.

The world, however, keeps on trying. Our collective nose is pressed to the glass shade, peering in at other people's unions with shameful, incurable fascination. Neighbours' marriages are interesting enough, whether they are visibly turbulent or simply so odd that we are baffled as to why she (or he) stays with him (or her). But neighbours are too close to examine properly: their children eat birthday cupcakes with ours, their wounded in-laws buttahole us in the supermarket, they themselves deliver competing versions of their quarrels. We are involved, and moreover we run the risk of the loose partner crashing in and disturbing our own nest. Gawping at the marriages of people you actually know is a dangerous spectator sport. As in ice-hockey, the puck may skid towards you unexpectedly and get you, through the net.

But marriage is so mysterious that we long for living specimens to observe. Why not, if the proper study of mankind is man? So step forward Will and Julia, Charles and Di, Ken and Emma, Bob and Paula, Dudley Moore and Nicole. Take a bow, Pavarotti and Stephen Hawking and Chris de Burgh, poor sap; and Earl Waldegrave and oh yes, the man who refuses to pay CSA maintenance for his daughter because the sperm was donated by someone else; and while we're about it, let us peer wonderingly at the plastic-surgery millionaire in Bromsgrove currently out on bail on condition that he keeps away from his wife, after some complicated shenanigans involving a rival Midlands nose-modeller and some alleged death threats.

A public couple need not even quarrel in order to draw our impatient scrutiny. Wiping our foggy breath from the obscuring glass

shade, we peer in with anxious concentration at such specimens as Alan and Jane Clark ("How does she put up with it?", Tony and Cherie Blair ("Who wears the trousers?") and — as today's grim hearing opens — Frederick and Rosemary West. We want to know what on earth goes on inside marriages: not because it is any of our business, but because we are looking for fragmentary reflections of our own lives. What would I do if my husband chased the nanny? Or threatened me with a meat-cleaver? Or built suspicious patios? Or led the Labour Party?

Would I resist it? Live up to it? Have I deserved it? Suppose my wife was a star and I wasn't? Suppose she had bulimia? Ran off with a younger man with more subtle? In this hidden dialogue beneath the gossip, it isn't them we talk about, but ourselves.

Sometimes we go too far. A Sunday broadsheet engages in tabloid therapy with a column headed "Relationship of the week", albeit with no pretence that the writer has ever actually met any of the people in it; and I must be the only journalist in the country who has no view at all on whether Emma Thompson's Oscar spiked her marriage. I don't know for sure what went on, and neither do you. The glass shade is in place. Perhaps he is genuinely proud of her Oscar, loves her for it, and the separation turns on a row over in-laws, or dripping taps, or one partner's violently satsuma-scented Body Shop scrub making the other one sneeze. Don't know. Don't care. Does it matter?

To blame the media is a cop-out. Physical and photographic intrusion certainly must be regulated: I for one would even welcome some law to prevent dramatisations of the sort which made the lives of Duncan McAllister and his in-laws miserable when a lousy TV play was made of Mrs. McAllister's murder. There should be limits of taste, but reasonable media speculation is unstoppable.

because it is the public who demand it, buy it, read it and discuss it endlessly around smart dinner-tables and canteen counters. It is not a wholly base demand: human beings want to understand human behaviour, and nothing is harder to understand than marriage.

There really is no formula: all we have to work on are a few durable old wives' truisms, and we like it best when publicised cases seem to confirm them. Thus the Princess of Wales is a young woman to whom a very bad turn was done when she was only 19, by a much older man who should have known better; a woman who has reason to be angry and dangerous and a threat to men's peace. Suddenly, it seems, she is becoming just that. It is not that we are pleased, exactly: it is just that having cast

the Princess this way we can look around our own circle and identify other rogue elephants, angry unrecaptured lone women with a restless gleam in their eyes. It was the same at Alan Clark's confessional peak, when every circle joyfully identified the Clark in its midst: the ass who thinks it fine to chase young women as long as you call them young ladies.

So the Ken-and-Em scenario suits us too, in an age when plenty of couples are driven apart by dual careers and geographical stress, and plenty of men are nervous of their wives' achievement. Whether or not these things really affect the Braughys is almost irrelevant: we use them as a template to tidy up our own perceptions.

The fascinating thing is that the subjects play the same game. You or I might think that if a reporter asked about our intimate affairs, the only possible statement would be "Mind your own business or I'll turn the hose on you". But the victims persist in throwing out titbits, such as the Braughys' "we have drifted apart", and "I'm feeling pretty

ropey", or Julia Carlisle's tantalising statement about matters "beyond my control", the Princess of Wales's co-operation with Andrew Morton's book, and her Prince's question: I do not believe they do it cynically: I hear in them an echo of the same baffled attempt that we all make to pin down what makes marriage sink or swim. For every wedding is a huge risk, and modern liberties have not changed the fact that every divorce brings about, even if secret, humiliation to both sides. No amount of psycho-babble makes it any easier to see in from outside, or to predict success or failure.

Scientifically, carefully, in 1837 the bachelor Charles Darwin made pencil notes on whether or not to marry. In favour he wrote: "Children — (if I please God) — constant companion, (friend in old age) who will feel interested in one, object to be beloved and played with — better than a dog anyhow — Home — Charms of music and female chit-chat. These things good for one's health. Forced to visit and receive relations, but terrible loss of time". Against, he wrote: "Freedom to go where one liked — Choice of Society and little of it. Conversation of clever men at clubs — not forced to visit relatives and to bend in every trifle — to have the expense and anxiety of children — perhaps quarrelling..."

Finally, he came down in favour, with: "Eh! I never should know French — or see the Continent — or go to America, or go up in a Balloon, or take solitary trip in Wales... Never mind my boy, cheer up — one cannot live this solitary life, with groggy old age, friendless and cold and childless, staring one in one's face, already beginning to wrinkle. Never mind, trust to chance — keep a sharp look-out — there is many a happy slave..."

That was all he could see of marriage from outside, and he made a better try than most. Two years later he married Emma Wedgwood. They had nine children, and wrote most loving, affecting letters to each other when they lost one. What is more, despite the lack of "conversation with clever men at clubs" (clearly a touch overrated as to intellectual life), Darwin's best work was still ahead of him.

He made it. We all want to. Which is why we look so closely, so impudently, at the poor devils who don't.

## Is Kohl up to the mark?

Roger Boyes says the grand scheme is over

Chancellor Kohl has kept power for 13 years with an astute combination of pragmatic politics and Bonapartist planning. Now his team is studying the year 1998 and beating its brains: there is a general election to be won then, perhaps the Chancellor's last. European monetary union will then be entering its most critical stage. The two goals seem increasingly to be in conflict.

Herr Kohl sees trouble ahead. "The populists are pecking out of every corner," he told his kitchen cabinet the other day. That may sound a little rich from a leader who has been riding populist waves as diverse as the Green campaign against the Brent Spar oil platform, and the Bavarian crusade for compulsory crucifixes in schools. But if nothing else he understands the force of public opinion.

He may win the election by the sheer power of his personality and with the help of his well-oiled vote-winning machine — and he may ask the Germans to trust his judgment on the single currency. But over the past fortnight he has realised that the personal gamble is more complex. The emotional decision to abandon the mark might not only elbow the Christian Democrats out of power, but split the party itself. Herr Kohl, who listens closely to provincial party organisations, knows the danger: on an issue as important as the mark, the Christian Democrats could splinter and collapse in the manner of their Italian namesakes.

Under the leader's leadership of Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrats have not diverged from the Bonn consensus on the need to stick to Maastricht criteria and timetable. But Herr Scharping's days are numbered and his most likely replacement, Gerhard Schröder, is presenting an alternative "Monetary Union without England and Italy is uninteresting," he said recently; nobody in Germany has the authority "to sacrifice the D-mark on the European altar". Many Christian Democrats privately agree.

So Herr Kohl seems ready to postpone monetary union, with all the attendant risks for his cherished dream of integration, in order not only to stay in power but to keep his party intact. His promise to step down in 1998, after the election, has been quietly forgotten.

The change of mood in the Chancellery is in large part due to the Bundesbank. The propaganda blitz from Frankfurt has persuaded even the dimmest party manager that the campaign to save the mark will not be confined to some far-right fringe parties. The Bundesbank directors are improbable heroes, but their present popularity is based on the assumption that the bank will not give in to political bullying. The bank's instinct for self-preservation and the ordinary German's strong distaste for surrendering the mark make a formidable political coalition. The most sober of organisations is becoming the standard-bearer of what Helmut Schmidt last week called "DM nationalism".

Politicians have, of course, overridden the Bundesbank in the past. The Chancellor and the Bundesbank engaged in a long battle over German monetary union in 1990. Herr Kohl won. Helmut Schmidt also clashed with the bank governors over his plans for the European monetary system. He battered the directors into submission with the long speech about the legacy of Auschwitz and Germany's future in Europe.

The Bundesbank's constitution is confused. It is independent of government, yet it must be loyal to the general economic guidelines pursued by government. So conflict is built in to the relationship, and the will of politicians is frequently decisive.

This row, however, is different. The Bundesbank is now fighting for survival. And the arguments are more finely balanced than ever before. The surrender of the mark and the acceptance of an inflationary European economy seems more damaging to bankers, business and the public, than the risk that France and Germany will drift apart unless they are trusted together in the frailty of a single currency. The Bundesbank knows it cannot risk open war with Helmut Kohl. It does not have an encouraging scorecard in such contests. So it is resorting to guerrilla tactics, pretending to support the broad goal of EMU while simultaneously making it impossible.

In 1991, a Bundesbank director remarked: "For a long period we said that nothing will come of EMU. We have the better monetary policies. Why should we take over a worse currency? Then we saw that if we remained on the sidelines, we would be confronted with difficulties. So we decided to advance to the head of the movement, with the aim of making the Bundesbank position clear at a European level."

That policy has not changed. At the weekend a Bundesbank economist suggested, only half in jest, that the best all-round solution would be if Germany itself failed to meet the convergence criteria, perhaps by letting inflation slip upwards. Has it come to that? The grand European vision is slipping away.

## Defectress

A CONFIDENTIAL list of approved after-dinner speakers being circulated to Conservative Party associations by Central Office contains a woman who made a high-profile defection last year to the Labour Party.

Joyce Sampson, a former civil servant in the health service, was a prominent member of the Conservative Party for 12 years and was on the candidates' list for Westminster. But during last year's Labour conference, she joined John Prescott on a platform to announce that she had defected because the Tory party was "dying".

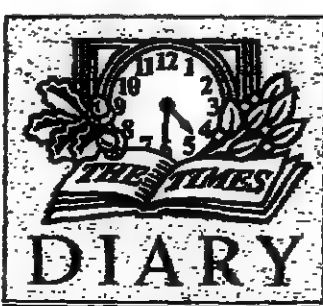
Yesterday, Central Office was limiting the damage. "It's a clerical error. We have sent round a correction," said an official. "I think most people would realise there has been a mistake."

Labour, on the other hand, was revelling in the confusion. "I'm sure she would make a very good speaker at Conservative association events. They would love to hear what she has to say."

Certainly, her views would do little to reassure those who fear that the party is less than open-minded about its candidates. Although twice shortlisted for

Commons seats, Sampson was never selected, and said she had "hit the glass ceiling" of the Conservative Party. "I had come up against a lack of progress which probably was because of my gender or race, or both."

At the party to launch the Disney Channel at Alexandra Palace on Sunday night, everyone was happy so long as people didn't get too carried away. A lot covered in facepaint spotted Minnie Mouse and rushed to hug her. "Watch out, Minnie!" yelled a horrified Disney corporate type. "You'll get your costume dirty."



too carried away. A lot covered in facepaint spotted Minnie Mouse and rushed to hug her. "Watch out, Minnie!" yelled a horrified Disney corporate type. "You'll get your costume dirty."

### Backing out

DOES Steven Norris, who is stepping down from his job as transport minister and MP, need to spend more time with his cars? Just the other day he pranged his Jag.

"I'm afraid it was entirely self-inflicted," he admits breezily. "But I was not on the public road. I was reversing out of a drive and managed to have an argument with a concrete post — which I lost."

But he stresses that there will be no special deals, despite his record

of making — and then losing — a fortune selling cars. "My role as a motor-trade maestro has been much exaggerated. I will get it dealt with like anyone else."

Perhaps Norris should have a quiet word with Labour's employment spokesman, Harriet Harman. As she negotiated a tight parking space on her arrival in Brighton, she gently nudged the Labour Party van parked in front and then backed, equally gently, into the car behind. All the vehicles were unscathed.

### Shampoo set

THE scholars of All Souls College, Oxford, are not generally noted for their fashion sense. But now one of its fellows has received an award for beautiful hair. Robert Smith, who became a prize fellow in 1990, is widely regarded as one of the most promising young English dons around. "He is one of the few people this side of the Channel who understands Derrida," says a fellow fellow.

But encouraged by the wife of a colleague, "Dreamboat" — as he is known in the college — was runner-up in the *Organic and Hair Magazine* beautiful hair awards at the Waldorf Hotel last week. He is modest about his success. "I now



Cantona's co-star, Sabine

have enough hair conditioner in my bathroom to sink a battleship," he says.

### Players only

AMONG those cheering the return of Eric Cantona at Old Trafford on Sunday were new friends from the movie world. During his exile for tackling a fan, he took a part in a French film, *Le Bonheur est dans le pré* ("Happiness is in the field"), in which he plays a rugby player. Apparently a new career beckons. "He was lovely, gentle and kind and elegant," gushed his co-star Sabine Azuaga after the match. "He proved himself a very good actor. He could certainly be a great actor in France."

Cantona is not the lead player. "He plays a primitive rugby type, but it's a lovable role," said producer Charles Gassot. "He was calm, patient and always on time. With good looks and charisma — a film star."

### Muscling in

LAUREN BACALL's character in *The Visit*, at the Chichester Festival Theatre, gets to fondle the brawny, if unnamed "Athlete". For her, they supply the real thing. Ross O'Hennessy, a 21-year-old from South Wales, has represented his country in various running events and the discus, played rugby for Wigan and scaled K2 before going to drama school, to the disgust of his family.

"It has been very exciting working with Lauren. We have certain scenes when she comes up and says what big muscles I've got, and I get to flex them." Members of the company are trying to decide who has been enjoying these tender moments the most.

P.H.S





## ULSTER'S MODERNISER

Trimble gives hope to the peace process

When David Trimble was elected leader of the Ulster Unionist Party last month, few expected him to act as he has in recent weeks. The surprise victory of the 50-year-old MP for Upper Bann over the favourite John Taylor was widely interpreted as a setback for the Anglo-Irish peace process, an indication that the Unionist community was retreating into its shell.

Yesterday, however, Mr Trimble became the first Unionist leader to meet the Irish Prime Minister in Dublin since Terence O'Neill thirty years ago. John Brunon, the Taoiseach, welcomed the talks as "very constructive", while Mr Trimble hailed the "new line of communication" which has been opened between Unionists and the South. The latter continues to confound naysayers who were expecting an implacable hardliner intent on wrecking the achievements of the last 18 months. The signs, indeed, are that Mr Trimble is one of the best hopes for the peace process has.

His visit to Dublin was aptly timed: The cancellation of last month's Anglo-Irish summit was a blow to plans for the decommissioning of IRA weapons. Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, has wobbled alarmingly on this issue, having previously been sound on the need to begin the disarmament process before the paramilitaries' representatives can join all-party talks. The IRA has declared itself utterly intransigent on this point. Mr Trimble made clear to the Irish Government yesterday that the disarmament issue will not go away. But, by talking to the Taoiseach on home turf, he also signalled that the Unionist community is open to suggestion and committed to debate.

Beyond his obvious cleverness, the Unionist leader has more to offer these complex negotiations than was first suspected. His political roots in the hardline Vanguard movement of the 1970s and membership of the Orange Order have been seen by some as a disadvantage. In fact, the opposite is

true. Mr Trimble's support at the grass roots is as strong as it is in the political elite. The British and Irish Governments can be sure that what he agrees to will be accepted by the Unionist community. Sadly, this could not have been said of his predecessor, James Molyneux.

To his credit, Mr Trimble is also committed to modernising his party and moderating its sectarian image. Like many sensible Unionists, he would like to see its connections with the Orange Order altered. The role of the party he leads should be to promote Britishness rather than a narrowly religious definition of nationality. Puffcrudely, Mr Trimble should make it possible for Roman Catholics to vote for the preservation of the Union without voting Orange.

Finally, the new leader has shown himself to be commendably open-minded. He is a true pragmatist in the sense that he wishes to advance the interests of his constituency as far as practical politics will allow. Unlike Mr Molyneux, he appears to realise that the historic affinities between the Tory party and Ulster Unionism are all but extinct. Today's Unionist leader must look further afield and forge understandings where he can. He cannot rely on the old affinities which sustained his predecessors.

One of the first things Mr Trimble did after his election was to hold informal talks with Proinsias de Rossa, the Irish minister and former IRA member. He has expressed a willingness to debate with Sinn Féin members across the floor of a new elected assembly before disarmament has begun. This is unlikely to happen. But it signals to the republican movement that change is possible if Sinn Féin-IRA is ready to be flexible. The Unionist community is rightly fed up of being presented as the obstacle to peace. Now its new leader has seized the initiative and transformed his party's public relations. Gerry Adams may finally have met his match.

## THE MIST LIFTS IN BRIGHTON

Labour's policies have now begun to take some shape

Gradually the contours of Labour's policies are beginning to emerge. Like mountains appearing out of the mist, the pledges are being unveiled by the leadership. Yesterday, at the party conference, it was the turn of Gordon Brown to make his first spending commitment: a £1 billion programme to help the young and the long-term unemployed back to work, financed by a wasteful tax on the utility companies. As election promises go, this is modest. The amount of money is small: a tiny proportion of the revenue Labour could expect to raise from taxing the utilities. Unlike the pledges before the last election to raise child benefit and pensions, this is carefully targeted. Only some of the unemployed will be helped, and the cost will be borne partly by the private sector.

But this promise, to be joined by others from Tony Blair today, will start to change the dynamics of British politics, both inside and outside the Labour Party. Mr Blair's strategy has always been threefold: first, discredit the Conservatives; secondly, tear Labour away from its bad old habits; and only then tell the public and the party what "new" Labour will offer instead. The third stage began yesterday.

The leadership is well aware of the importance of pacing. At the last general election, Labour was saddled with pledges on child benefit and pensions that had been made two years previously. Not only had they lost their capacity to excite the electorate, they also forced John Smith to propose highly unpopular tax increases to pay for them. By 1992, Labour was facing a Conservative Party with a new leader and new priorities. Neil Kinnock had to fight it on tired old policies.

But while the absence of policies this time may have allowed Mr Blair to concentrate on reforming the party, it also contributed to

party malaise. On the economy in particular, it allowed the Left to complain that Mr Brown was a "do-nothing" shadow Chancellor or, worse, a "neo-too" man who would simply ape the Tories. When Mr Brown was conducting the second stage of the strategy — reassuring the City and the electorate that Labour would be tough on inflation and borrowing and would not tax for its own sake — this charge had some force. Now, however, he has at least set out some concrete proposals that differentiate his party a little from the Conservatives.

However, these policies will now have to be defended, both against the Left and the Tories. For two years, Labour has had the luxury of watching the governing party fight among itself, and Conservatives have had to live with the frustration of not having an opposition target at which they could aim. During the next 18 months, as Labour's policies slowly take shape, they can be criticised by the Left for being too modest, and costed by the Right as too expensive. Politics will shift up a gear.

Internal criticism, though, may remain relatively muted. Yesterday's decision to remit a motion calling for a £4.15 an hour minimum wage was a real sign of a new responsibility. The argument that carried most weight was that, if the motion were put to the vote and passed, it would make Labour look divided and give the Tories ammunition. That such an argument now carries weight with the Left is an extraordinary transformation. There may still be many delegates unhappy with Mr Blair's leadership style. But there is no doubt that his structures are sinking in. A new discipline is apparent in the Labour Party, a far cry from the "emotional spasms" of the past. It is the discipline of a party that understands what is needed to have a chance of winning power.

## IS ABACHA JOKING?

Nigerian democracy, it seems, must wait for three more years

General Sani Abacha, the military strongman who continues to deny presidential office to the man who won Nigeria's elections over two years ago, has announced a timetable for a return to democracy. With striking irony, his thoughts were broadcast to the nation on the anniversary of its independence from Britain. The army's "disengagement" from government, to use the General's own intriguing vocabulary, will take place not this year, nor the next — nor even in 1997 — but on October 1, 1998.

And what does the General propose to do in the next three years? Before fresh presidential elections in September 1998, he will — in chronological sequence — approve a "draft" constitution, create a "national character commission" and a "national reconciliation committee", begin a process of political party registration, produce an "authentic" voters' register, and hold elections to local government councils and state assemblies (after candidates have been "screened and approved"). Yet Nigerians, "screened and approved" by men in uniform, will not be taken in by any of this: the trappings of elaborate detail do not make a state respectable.

In the course of Sunday's broadcast, General Abacha also deigned to commute the sentences for "plotting to overthrow the Government" — imposed in July by a secret

tribunal which abided by no civilised judicial norms — on the opposition statesmen Olusegun Obasanjo and Shehu Musa Yar'Adua. Considering that the General has never acknowledged that the two men were ever sentenced to punishment, his announcement of a commutation is but a corrupt paradox.

Yet Chief Emeke Anyaoku, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, was minded yesterday to "hope" that this revision of secret sentence "signals an initiative to create a more human rights-conscious environment in the country". The Chief compounded his miscalculation by stating that there was "no basis" as yet for excluding Nigeria from the forthcoming Commonwealth heads of government summit in New Zealand.

Chief Anyaoku is wrong. There is every reason to exclude General Abacha and his functionaries from November's summit. Moshood Abiola, the presumptive winner of the elections annulled by General Abacha's uniformed predecessor, languishes under lock and key still — and the General's three-year "disengagement" plan ignores contemptuously the fact of that election. Imprisoned, too, are the people of Nigeria: neither Britain, nor the Commonwealth, can ignore their situation. General Abacha is not welcome, anywhere.

## Europe's ruling on 'Rock' deaths

From Mr Richard Gordon, QC, and Mr Richard Wilmet-Smith, QC

Sir, The Government's expression of "incredulity" at the European Court of Human Rights "Death on the Rock" verdict may, as your editorial of September 28 suggests, elicit sympathy from many people. It is, nonetheless, one of the strongest arguments for incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into national law (Lord Lester of Herne Hill's letter, September 29).

When the ITV documentary *Death on the Rock* was transmitted in 1988 it was challenged by the then Prime Minister as constituting "trial by television". The unspoken implication was that we should await trial by a court before firing accusatory salvos.

Now there has been a judicial trial. But the court is, necessarily, international rather than national because fit being no part of our domestic law (United Kingdom judges are prevented from giving rulings on the European Convention).

The political tensions generated by adverse rulings of the European Court of Human Rights are understandable, even predictable. They would, however, be containable if we had a national Bill of Rights with a constitutional court on the American Supreme Court model.

If, instead of the European court, a UK constitutional court had handed down the same judgment on the Gibraltar killings the Government would be most unlikely to have considered reviewing the existence of the court. For to do so would, rightly, be regarded as breaching the separation of powers intrinsic to our constitution.

The implicit threat by ministers to review this country's adherence to the European Convention is sinister precisely because there is, currently, no domestic institutional guardian of human rights. That, ultimately, is why the European Convention must be incorporated.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD GORDON,  
RICHARD WILMET-SMITH,  
39 Essex Street, WC2,  
October 2.

From Mr David Cook

Sir, In his letter supporting the European court and the essential tenets which underpin it, Lord Lester quotes from the "great Conservative Home Secretary" — and European statesman — David Maxwell Fyfe, later Lord Kilbride.

Given that the European court's decision concerned the "right to life", it is perhaps ironic that Maxwell Fyfe is quoted in this context, as the most famous decision of his tenure as Home Secretary was to refuse to reprieve Derek Bentley from the gallows — indisputably a man wrongly deprived of the fundamental right to life by the British Government.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID COOK,  
53 Duke Street, Norwich, Norfolk,  
October 1.

From Mr Richard Parsonson

Sir, Had the three IRA terrorists succeeded in murdering whoever they intended to in Gibraltar, would the relatives of the victims have had a case against the Government in the European Court of Human Rights under the "right to life" article because it had not authorised the SAS to shoot the terrorists on sight?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD PARSONSON,  
49 Longbeach Road, SW11,  
October 1.

From Mr Vincent Hale

Sir, The recent decision of the European court has caused a furore but it is only an extension of English domestic law which virtually requires a householder to wait until an intruder draws blood from him or his family before responding and which allows the householder to be sued if a hair of the intruder's head is hurt.

Yours faithfully,  
VINCENT HALE (solicitor),  
140 Upperthorpe,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
October 2.

## All in a twist

From Mr M. Diddams

Sir, I would like to bring to your attention the sadistic tactics increasingly being employed by clothing manufacturers, namely the placement of labels on garments. I am totally dependent on the label being attached to the rear of any article of clothing to ensure that I wear it correctly; but it is becoming increasingly common for the label to be found elsewhere on the garment.

This is causing me much discomfort and embarrassment, especially where certain articles of underwear are concerned.

Yours faithfully,  
M. DIDDAMS,  
21 Vincent Road,  
Sittingbourne, Kent,  
October 2.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Sound advice for homebuyers

From the Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders

Sir, Libby Purves ("Home, sourced home", September 26) states that the UK "should never ever have got into home-ownership on such a scale. The rest of Europe hasn't".

In fact the UK is typical of European Union countries in terms of the proportion of homes that are owner-occupied. The latest available figures on the 12 countries that were members of the EU in 1990 show owner-occupation as follows (figures in brackets indicate percentages): Ireland (61), Spain (76), Greece (77), Italy (67), Luxembourg (67), Portugal (67), UK (67), Belgium (65), France (64), Denmark (52), Holland (45), (West) Germany (38).

Furthermore, the level of owner-occupation is not out of line with other similar countries outside Europe. Latest available percentages show the United States of America (64), Canada (63), New Zealand (74), Japan (61), and Australia (72).

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN COLES, Director-General,  
Council of Mortgage Lenders,  
3 Savile Row, W1,  
October 2.

From Mr Francis Howcutt

Sir, An increase in mortgage interest rate relief, as suggested by John Redwood, MP (article, September 22), would not be an efficient way to lubricate the housing market. Most of the benefit would go to people who have no plans to move home in the foreseeable future.

In contrast, abolition of stamp duty on the purchase of housing for owner-occupation would reduce the overheads of most transactions. At the very least, stamp duty should apply only to

the part of the purchase price which exceeds the £50,000 threshold — a reform of the present rules under which duty is charged on the entire purchase price if a transaction is not exempt.

Yours etc,  
FRANCIS HOWCUTT,  
22 Thurstone Road,  
West Norwood, SE27.

From Mr Malcolm Jones

Sir, Reading Libby Purves brought home again the importance of realising that you cannot get good advice for nothing. Banks who claimed to be advisers and started calling their customers "clients" are now being called to account for the advice given. Questions have been raised over the suitability of endowment policies to pay off mortgages. And now, it seems you may not be wise to trust the advice of some estate agents about the value of your home because of the possibility of some hidden motive.

Banks, insurance brokers and estate agents sell their products and there's nothing wrong with that. But when did a car salesman ever tell you that you would be better off walking or taking the bus?

If you don't pay for the advice, it's not independent. Even those advisers who describe themselves as independent are like shopkeepers who stock products from more than one supplier. They may advise you as to which of their products would be best for you but they will not tell you that you really don't need any of them at all.

Consult your (really) independent adviser first.

Yours faithfully,  
M. D. JONES (solicitor),  
9 Harewood Avenue,  
Rochford, Essex.

## Waiving parliamentary privilege

From Mr John Roney

Sir, You report (Law, September 19) that MPs are to be asked to vote on a petition by Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, and Mr Ian Greer, on whether to waive their parliamentary privilege, so that courts can hear evidence about parliamentary proceedings.

In 1976 I acted for Laker Airways Ltd in its successful action against the Department of Trade in the matter of the Skytrain licence. The hearing was held in the House of Commons, May 24, and it was intended to refer in some depth to the debates in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords.

On the previous Thursday afternoon I was telephoned by the Treasury Solicitor and advised that no reference could be made to the debates unless the consent of the two Houses was first obtained. After making various telephone calls to the Clerk's office and reading a copy of Erskine May on parliamentary procedure, I discovered that the only means of obtaining such consent was by separate petition to each House.

The House of Lords, that archaic institution, considered it quite unnecessary to present a petition or to obtain consent and was quite happy for the debates to be referred to in court as fully as we wished.

## London squares

From Mr Roger Phillips

Sir, The editors of *The Good Gardens Guide* (letter, September 21) are under the impression that this society has applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant. This is not the case.

It is true that we have a plan to bring all London squares up to a high standard for the millennium, with a view to having a series of open days across the city, so that more people can enjoy one of the great delights of London, but we do not intend to ask for lottery funds for this purpose.

Of the 460-plus London squares more than 300 are run by local boroughs and are open to the public. The rest are communal gardens, run by and for the local residents. Eccleston Square (2.9 acres) caters for some 700. Most residential squares are happy to finance their own improvements. The squares that might need a small injection of outside cash to bring them up to a high level of maintenance are the open, council-run squares of the boroughs strapped for cash.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER PHILLIPS  
(Chairman),  
The Society for the Protection of  
London Squares,  
15a Eccleston Square, SW1.

## Playing fair

From Mr David E. Radcliffe

Sir, Amid the euphoria of the Euro-triumph in the Ryder Cup, may I request a public apology to the fair city of Rochester, NY?

Today's editorial slight, "the dim New York suburb", sits awkwardly with your supplement of just one week ago, in which Rochester was described as a place "where the noise and snarl associated with Manhattan appears half a world away" and "a town of style, grace and intelligence".

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID E. RADCLIFFE,  
47 Salford Road,  
Southport, Merseyside,  
September 25.

## Positive aspects of the Internet

From Mr Andrew Scadding

Sir, "I do not understand what cyberspace is, nor do I understand what the Internet is or does" writes Bernard Levin (September 21). By this ingenious device, he invites us to believe that he, who has so successfully devoted his life to the printed and published word, is incapable of discriminating between the messenger and the message.

The Internet, like a book, consists largely of text and pictures. Like a book it has no innate capacity for good or evil, it is a tool: no more, no less. Good or evil attaches to the use to which the tool is put. The net is extensively used by charities, churches, teachers and doctors to further their desirable ends. That bomb-makers, Nazis and pornographers also employ the Internet is no more significant than that they exchange messages by post or publish underground magazines: media which will continue to be available to them even if they are denied access to the net.

In the sense that the net is transnational, it cannot be subjected to the laws of any one country any more than can the international bankers, as Mr Levin observes. But Chinese students used fax machines to report on the aftermath of Tiananmen Square. Western correspondents used satellite phones to report the bombing of Baghdad and the shelling of Sarajevo. The net is only one of a number of rapidly developing technologies which ignore national boundaries.

Like them, the net cannot now be uninvited: like them, it may take time for society to adapt to it, to learn to use it wisely, to change laws and to adjust concepts of exclusive national local control appropriately. Individuals will probably continue to abuse the privilege of the net, as individuals continue to abuse the privilege of the car and the printed word. But the interests of the many who use the Internet intelligently must prevail and will not be sacrificed in an attempt to deny the net to a tiny minority of abusers.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW SCADDING,  
Danum House,  
Edenstone, Ashbourne, Derbyshire,  
September 23.

## Crime statistics

From Ms Julie Flint

Sir, Although any drop in crime is to be welcomed (report and article, September 28), it is a sad fact that the fear of crime, so damaging to the quality of everyday life, is increasing all the time.

A MORI poll conducted for next Wednesday's *Frontline* programme on Channel 4 shows that 85 per cent of us think we are more likely to be victims of violent crime than we were ten years ago. The reality is that those who worry most about being violently assaulted by strangers, such as women and the elderly, are at considerably less risk of being attacked than young men, who worry least. Fear is not just a consequence of crime; fear itself leads to crime by emptying our streets and weakening our social ties.

May I suggest the Home Secretary places less emphasis on crime statistics and devotes more resources to reducing the fear of crime?

Yours sincerely,  
JULIE FLINT (reporter, *Frontline*),  
October Films Ltd,  
63-64 Camden Lock Place,  
West Yard, Chalk Farm Road, NW1,  
September 28.

## Pick of the bunch

From Mr Alan Moss

Sir, Forget sliced bread (letters, September 24, 27). Never mind the dishwashers, cordless hedge-trimmers, remote-controlled car immobilisers. As far as I am concerned, any brilliant new idea or invention can only be hailed as the best thing since instant-lighting barbecue charcoal.

Yours truly,  
ALAN MOSS,  
Heath House, 11 Lyonsdown Road,  
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Philip J. Hall

Sir, The supreme inventions of mankind are, as is universally recognised, the vacuum flask and the umbrella. Other views are decidedly eccentric.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. HALL,  
7 Winton Close, Montpelier Crescent,  
Wallasey, Merseyside.

From Mr Hilary Eve

Sir, My drives off the tee have been called "the nearest thing in golf to sliced bread". To me, the phrase is all too contemporary to need renewing.

Yours faithfully,  
H. M. EVE,  
Cutmill Cottage, Cutmill,  
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.

## Measure for measure

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, Surely in the garden the new EU legislation applies only to inch-worms (letters, September 30 and October 2)?

Yours truly,  
GERY HANSON,  
Potters Lodge, 74a Slough Road,  
Iwer Heath, Buckinghamshire,  
October 2.







## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR MICHAEL BALFOUR

Professor Michael Balfour, CBE, historian and civil servant, died on September 16 aged 86. He was born on November 22, 1908.

MICHAEL BALFOUR was born in Oxford, the city around which much of his life was to revolve. In the year identified by James Joll in a festschrift compiled for Balfour's 80th birthday as 'pre-eminently a year for historians' it was the year in which Europe's monarchs, meeting at Reval and at Kronberg, made their personal attempts to break the tensions that were to lead to war. Their failure cast the long shadows which provided Balfour with his chief historical themes — the shaping of 20th-century Europe, the nature of tyranny, and the disastrously flawed relations between Britain and Germany.

By birth and upbringing Michael Balfour was entirely English, although by ancestry he was a Scot: he could trace his lineage directly to the 14th-century Balfours of Inchrye, including David, the 18th-century, largely fictional hero of *Kilnsey*. From his father, Graham Balfour, the official biographer of Robert Louis Stevenson, he inherited a deep knowledge of that writer and a love of his work.

He was educated at Fackwood Haugh, near Birmingham, and at Rugby, where he chiefly studied classics but was also one of the last and favoured pupils of the school's pioneering history master, C. P. 'Tiger' Hastings. The latter, who was a passionate disciple of Macaulay and Carlyle, had been the teacher, at various times, of William Temple, Robert Birley and R. H. Tawney. He gave Balfour his first whiff of the historical excitement which was to fire much of his writing.

Balfour obtained a history exhibition to Balliol where he was confidently expected to take a first in Greats. In fact he achieved only a second; but in the following year he gained a first in Modern History, and in 1931 he only narrowly missed being elected to a prize fellowship at All Souls, being piped to the post by Gervase Rees. Between 1933 and 1936 he lectured in



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jointly with Julian Frisby, remains the definitive study in English of the German resistance leader whom George Kennan considered to be 'the greatest person morally... that I met on either side of the battle-lines in the Second World War'. Balfour himself preferred the word *Widerstand* to resistance, as he wrote in a later book, 'one of the first steps to understanding what did or did not happen (during the rise of Nazism) is to realise that the activities associated with those English nouns in many countries were not practicable in Germany after 1933'.

Balfour first met von Moltke in 1936 and was to become godfather to his son. His admiration for the man was nearly total but his study remains critical and balanced; in particular, it successfully addresses many of the practical questions which exercised Balfour's own mind. What should an honest, humane and intelligent man do under a modern tyranny; how can he obstruct tyrants without having his efforts abruptly terminated by imprisonment or execution; what can give him the pertinacity and courage to go on making himself awkward?

The book includes much of von Moltke's wartime correspondence with foreign intellectuals and politicians. In a letter to Lionel Curtis of the Round Table, written from Sweden in March 1943, von Moltke outlines his plans for 'a stable connection between the German opposition and Great Britain' — to assist our war against Hitler, our internal war, he requests that, as a means to this end, a man should be sent to Stockholm specifically 'to keep in touch with the various underground movements in Europe, especially in Germany'. Von Moltke makes it clear that Balfour was the man he had in mind.

The proposal never reached Curtis: the Swedish diplomat to whom von Moltke entrusted it felt that the letter was too dangerous to forward. Balfour remained in England, serving successively in the Ministry of Information, the Political Warfare Executive and the Psychological Warfare Division of SHAEP. Von Moltke was arrested

in 1944 and executed at Mauthausen, along with nine others, on January 23, 1945.

Balfour's own wartime assignment was to marshal and direct the Allied propaganda services — a complex, demanding task which was to provide him with the material for *Propaganda in War, 1939-1945*, published in 1979. His wartime experience stood Balfour in good stead for his next senior appointment, supervising Germany's postwar information media for the British Control Commission — work which provided him with the background for a 1956 study of *Four-Power Control in Germany, 1945-1946*.

On September 29, 1947, the very day on which Harold Wilson's youthful appointment to the Board of Trade was announced to the press, Balfour became the board's chief information officer. He was delighted to be back in England; he felt at ease with Wilson (more, perhaps, than with the press) and his responsibility for British overseas trade fairs gave him ample opportunity for foreign travel over the next 16 years. In 1963 he was appointed CBE.

Increasingly, however, he longed to return to the academic world, and in 1964 he eagerly accepted an offer of a lectureship (later professorship) in European history at the University of East Anglia.

Balfour retired to his Oxfordshire home in 1974, where he continued to write prolifically. His last three studies were *The Adversaries: America, Russia and the Open World, 1941-1962* (1980), *West Germany: A Contemporary History* (1982) and *Britain and Joseph Chamberlain* (1985).

Spare of frame, precise in manner, Michael Balfour could present strangers with an austere, even daunting facade. It concealed much wit and warmth, and a sensitivity to human relationships which endeared him to his friends and secured him an honoured place at the heart of his family. In 1934 he married Grief Wilson, sister of Sir Duncan Wilson, British Ambassador in Belgrade and Moscow. She survives him, along with their three daughters.

and, until 1979, the only woman member of the Association of Mining Electrical Engineers. At the same time, she was making numerous overseas trips for the company and just before the war, found herself in Cologne. It was an uncomfortable moment to be an English woman in Germany, and her hosts, when they searched her, regarded the technical drawings of lamps which she was carrying as most suspicious.

Her factory was bombed during the war, during which Maurice served on a British Standards Committee investigating the standardisation of screw threads. She returned to Germany after the war on a mission to advise on the re-establishment of industry. In 1951 she succeeded her father as chairman and managing director, and during the 1950s continued work on safety for lamp bulbs. In 1959 new, more compact flame safety lamps were introduced by the company, the redesign being supervised by Maurice.

There followed a decade developing new markets for safety lamps, in particular in the petrochemical and shipping industries. Maurice generated business with tanker fleets, petrochemical plants and refiners, and at the same time expanded overseas. She was appointed OBE in 1975, and retired as managing director in favour of her son four years later, although she remained chairman until 1988.

Afterwards she concentrated on enlarging her collection of jade, paintings and antiques, and spent more time with her grandchildren.

Maurice had kept her company relatively small, with around 50 employees and, to her staff she remained affectionately known as 'Miss Maurice'. In fact, she had married a GP, Dr Arthur Newton Jackson, in 1938, although she retained her maiden name for professional purposes. They had a daughter and two sons.

## SIDNEY PETTLE

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SIDNEY PETTLE was probably the only beadle in church or synagogue history to have won fame and a personal following far beyond the institution he served. His flair and exceptional charisma endowed the humble office of beadle with great prestige.

The 'cathedral' synagogue he served, known simply as 'West London' has, unlike so many other city centre churches and synagogues, managed to retain a flourishing congregation of nearly 4,000 members. It has always had outstanding senior rabbis; Hugo Gryn, the present incumbent, widely known for his part in the BBC's *Moral Maze* programme and other media slots, has been there for nearly 30 years. It has outstanding music under the direction of Sidney Fisman. And for 34 years it had Sidney Pettle.

Of medium build and measured movements, Pettle had a quiet dignity — with or without his top hat and black velvet-edged gown. And he was master of every ceremony. As a quietly spoken word or understated gesture from Pettle, a thousand people would instantly rise to their feet or sink into their seats. He would recognise every face that came in, even those who had been absent for years, and locate them in the pews. Under his unobtrusive direction, lay participants would appear to open or close the Ark at the precise moment needed to keep the liturgy flowing.

For tyro rabbis he had inexhaustible advice and staunch support. For older rabbis his presence was always reassuring because of his nose, his judgement and his total reliability. His long partnership with Hugo Gryn was particularly close and happy. In a congregation that ranged from the titled to those on reduced subscriptions,

Pettle endeared himself to all by his unique blend of warmth and reserve. He knew the borders between courtesy, friendship and familiarity, and never crossed them uninvited. His post, with the additional duties of funeral director and marriage secretary, left him little leisure. He still made time regularly to go around several old age homes and put on film shows. His help was also always available to a number of congregations that sprang up on the outskirts of London in the postwar decades. He made and left his mark far outside his own 'parish'.

Sidney David Pettle was born in Hadeney, East London. His father was a travelling salesman, his mother a finishing hand in a garment factory. They separated while he was still an infant. He was brought up mostly by a grandmother, and

left the local Lauriston school at 14.

But what he lacked in material and educational advantage, he made up for with rich inner resources. From the moment he entered the job market, he was determined upon communal service. After ten years in the offices of Anglo-Jewry's central institution, the United Synagogue, he applied for the beadle's post at West London. He had found the position in which he flourished.

Pettle spent the last few years of his life as funeral director to the Reform and Liberal Jewish communities in Brighton. There a brain tumour and inoperable cancer struck him earlier this year. He married Anne Knott in 1952. She died in 1968. He is survived by his second wife Zena, whom he married in 1970, and by her three daughters whom he adopted as his own.

## MONICA MAURICE

Monica Maurice, OBE, chairman of the Wolf Safety Lamp Company, 1951-88, died on September 29 aged 87. She was born on June 24, 1908.



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DURING her half-century at the helm of the Sheffield-based Wolf Safety Lamp Company, Monica Maurice oversaw a minor revolution in the underground safety lighting used in South Yorkshire pits. She was a diminutive woman, but she possessed the necessary grit to succeed in what are still today the overwhelmingly male professions of coalmining and engineering. In Sheffield she was known affectionately as the Lady of the Lamp.

When she joined the Wolf Safety Lamp Company, as a young girl in her father's firm, she was a highly unusual addition to the workforce. One thing which eased her way with her male colleagues was her genuine fascination with the technical aspects of her work as an engineer.

She loved everything mechanical from her youth onwards, and spent hours tinkering under the bonnet of

new design of miners' safety lamps from Germany. Instead of merely selling these on, her father, William Maurice, decided to investigate the new technology itself, and developed numerous applications. The company became one of the world leaders in its field.

Helen Monica Maurice had a cosmopolitan education, which began at Bedales and included spells at Hamburg University and at the Sorbonne, where she developed her facility for languages. She joined the Wolf Safety Lamp Company in 1930, at the age of 21, as a secretary to her father, the governing director. She then trained as an engineer and was made a director in 1932. The following year she organised a conference of the Women's Engineering Society in Sheffield. One of the women who attended was her fellow aviatrix Amy Johnson.

Three years later Maurice was overseeing installations of clearance lighting with Wolf Airborne lamps in the South Yorkshire pits. She also carried out experiments on flame safety lamps in underground environments. In 1938 she became the first

and, until 1979, the only woman member of the Association of Mining Electrical Engineers. At the same time, she was making numerous overseas trips for the company and just before the war, found herself in Cologne. It was an uncomfortable moment to be an English woman in Germany, and her hosts, when they searched her, regarded the technical drawings of lamps which she was carrying as most suspicious.

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## KENNETH ROBERTS

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KENNETH ROBERTS dedicated his life to the improvement of the water industry, not just in Britain but also across Europe. One of a select group of water engineers and managers that formed the Ogden committee — the national committee set up to make recommendations on a new national structure for local government water organisations — he was one of the architects of the modern British water industry.

Ken Roberts was born in Bolton on February 13, 1923. Educated at Bolton Grammar School, he went on to Manchester University where he gained his BSc Honours degree in civil engineering. Commissioned in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1943, he worked for four years with the Indian Army ending up with the rank of major.

After his move to the West Country in 1947, his passion for the water industry emerged. As the deputy chief engineer for Bristol Waterworks Company he was intimately involved in the planning and construction of Chew Valley Lake, a reservoir supplying the city of Bristol. Opened by the Queen in 1956, it remains a beautiful and enduring monument to Roberts's engineering skills.

As general manager of the large and influential Bristol Waterworks Company, his

determination to champion a less fragmented water industry earned him a place on the Ogden committee and the opportunity to change the British water industry. After ten water authorities were formed in 1974, he became the chief executive of Wessex Water.

He broke away from an engineering management style to take advantage of high technology and cost controls which had not previously been used. He brought a demanding commercial approach to the industry and set ambitious new standards of service against which capital spending was judged.

Roberts's contributions have subsequently become the bedrock of the water industry's ability to provide a cost

effective service to its customers. His radical ideas on its management — and their successful implementation — earned him considerable respect in the European Community. In 1986 he became president of EUREAU — the Union of Water Supply Associations in the European Community — and he advised the European Commission on a number of pan-European water industry matters. He was particularly influential in the development of EU directives relating to the pollution of water resources and in planning standard European water supply practices.

Roberts served on many other national and international committees as chairman or president, including the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists, National Joint Utilities Group, the finance committee of the International Water Supply Association and the Pipeline Industries Guild. In 1986 he was elected an honorary member of the American Water Works Association.

Up to the time of his death he was still actively involved in the community through his role on Bath University Council and as the university treasurer. In 1979 Roberts's achievements in and for the British water industry were recognised when he was appointed CBE.

Even in the relaxation of his retirement Roberts remained close to the water to which he had dedicated his life. He was a keen fisherman.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, and by their two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

<b>THANKSGIVING SERVICES</b> THIST - A Thanksgiving service for the life of Carol Geoffrey Douglas Tynt CBE RN, will be celebrated on Saturday November 11th in St. Paul's Church, Canterbury. <b>OVERSEAS TRAVEL</b> PORTUGAL - All costs, including flights, transfers, visas, etc. £171.403.9555. <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> VICTORIA CHURCH, London and all other churches and synagogues. <b>FLATSHARE</b> BATTERSEA Road, 4/5 to share. Call 0171 4100000. <b>TICKETS FOR SALE</b> MORNING SUITS DINNER SUITS EVENING TAIL SUITS 22 Charing Cross Rd WC2 City Tel 0171 633 7721 136 Fenchurch St EC3	<b>TICKETS FOR SALE</b> ALL AVAILABLE Premium, Group, Standard, Economy, etc. Call 0171 4100000. <b>ALL TICKETS</b> England, Wales, Scotland, etc. Call 0171 4100000. <b>TICKETS ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA</b> Tickets & Hospitality. Call 0171 4100000. <b>FOR SALE</b> 1995 TRAMER - 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>MORNING SUITS DINNER SUITS EVENING TAIL SUITS</b> 22 Charing Cross Rd WC2 City Tel 0171 633 7721 136 Fenchurch St EC3	<b>FLIGHTS</b> A BRIGHTWATER, 1995-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>RENTALS</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>SERVICES</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>WANTED</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>FLIGHTS</b> A BRIGHTWATER, 1995-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>RENTALS</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>SERVICES</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>WANTED</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000.	<b>FLIGHTS DIRECTORY</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>GO GOA</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>TRAILFINDERS</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000. <b>SCA</b> 1995 TRAMER, 1795-1990. Call 0171 4100000.
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## HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

The estate of the Hampstead Garden Suburb (Limited) was formally opened yesterday, the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, with the representatives of various local authorities, being present at the ceremony. The estate covers 40 acres and is situated at Temple Fortune, on the Finsbury Road, less than a mile to the north of the Golders Green terminus of the Charing Cross and Hampstead Tube Railway. The land forms part of the 243 acres, the property of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, from whom it is held by the society on lease. The Hampstead Garden Suburb (Limited) is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, and is affiliated with the Co-partnership Tenants' Housing Council, Co-partnership Tenants (Limited), and other associations having for their object the cheaper, healthier housing of the working class population in the outer suburbs of London and other large towns.

Upon the 40 acres it is proposed to build not more than 400 houses, no single acre will have more than 12 houses upon it; and this departure from the long-standing practice of crowding 30 or 40 houses upon an acre will allow a small garden to each house and open spaces for recreation. The society took possession of the land on May 1, and there are

## ON THIS DAY

October 3, 1907

Rents at the houses on the radical new estate being built for "the working class population" in north London ranged from six shillings and sixpence (33p) to 15 shillings (75p) a week

now 13 houses nearly ready for occupation, and it is hoped that by next March 84 houses will be completed. The tenants, as partner in the estate, will have a share in whatever profits may be made. Every tenant must become a member of the society. The minimum subscription to shares is £5, with the obligation on the tenant gradually to increase his interest in the undertaking by small investments during tenancy. His share in the profits is to be credited to the tenant member as share capital, until it amounts approximately to the value of the house in

which he lives. Interest is to be paid on shares, and by setting the accruing interest against the rent paid the tenant-member will have the hope of eventually living rent free. There are at present about 200 members, and the demand for houses is far in excess of the supply.

The Lord Mayor opened the first house in the broad roadway to be known as Hampstead Way and then, with the Sheriffs, Mrs Barney and others, planted lime trees by the roadside. Mr Vivian, in responding on behalf of the federated societies, said they owed much to the pioneers of the movement under whom the idea of a garden city had taken shape. If this branch society were to fail commercially — a thing most unlikely — the people of this country would have full value in the improved standard of thought which had resulted from the experiment. It had stirred the imagination and had led to well-considered principles for laying out an estate on commercial lines.

Undoubtedly it was a distinct gain for a man to enter his house with a sense of possession, but that should not enable him to utilise his ownership in the injury of his neighbours. It must be within everyone's experience how a selfish tenant could lower the character of a whole street.



ADVERTISEMENT

# GERMANY BUILDS ON FIVE YEARS OF UNITY

**Kohl: German and European unity are 'two sides of the same coin'**

Premising the political judgements of future historians may rank as presumption. But there is little doubt that they will judge modern Germany fortunate in the man it has chosen to lead the transformation from a defeated, shattered and divided country into the epitome of a stable free-market democracy at peace with its neighbours. They include men like Konrad Adenauer, Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt and today's Chancellor Helmut Kohl who has been elected four times and has headed the government for 13 years – more than a quarter of the time since the Federal Republic was established in 1949.

Two issues have dominated Herr Kohl's period in office: the unification of a Germany divided by the iron curtain and the integration of Germany into the ever closer relationship of the members of the European Union. For Herr Kohl, the two issues are indissolubly linked. The integration of the former GDR into the Federal Republic provides a model of what can be achieved if historic opportunities are seized promptly and with determination.

He was asked in an interview about the ten-point programme he presented at the end of November 1989 at a time when the cracks in the Berlin Wall, and in the structure of the old GDR, were raising old fears in some quarters that a unified Germany of 80 million people might dominate Europe politically as well as economically. He stressed then that the future architecture of Germany would have to fit in with the future architecture of Europe as a whole. Has this process been a success?

"Yes, but it's not complete, one of our main foreign policy goals is to pursue this process to a successful conclusion. I have repeatedly assured our European friends that a reunited Germany would not go its own special way and it is a principle we have followed consistently. It is in our own interests because a neutral Germany would only become progressively more isolated, which would be damaging for us as well as for our neighbours.

The integral link between German and European unity is plain to see. Konrad Adenauer's guiding principle that German unity and European unity are two sides of the same coin is as valid today and for the future as when Adenauer expressed it. It was this indivisible link that the French President and I had in our minds in April 1990 when we launched a joint initiative to develop the European Community into a political union. The result of that Franco-German initiative was the Maastricht summit of



April 1991.

I have said before that historic opportunities do not re-occur – or if they do, only after a long time. This is naturally true for the process of uniting Europe. We are the ones who have to decide whether we make decisive advances towards European union or allow ourselves to adopt a hesitant wait-and-see policy. Our goal is to build a Europe to weather the storms of our time."

**'our goal is to build a Europe to weather the storms of time'**

The Chancellor's ability to seize the moment for decisive action was never better demonstrated than in 1989 and 1990 when the Berlin Wall first crumbled and then fell. He says now that any doubts he may have had about the feasibility of unification were finally laid to rest in late December 1989 when he watched the people of Dresden express their desire for freedom and unity in a huge spontaneous and peaceful demonstration. Picking up the theme of seizing historic opportunity, the Chancellor was asked how important the time factor was in his decision to proceed to complete unification within less than a year. There are those who still believe the speed with which that process was conducted may have led to decisions, above in the decision to pay out one Deutschmark for every so-called Ostmark may prove a costly mistake. Chancellor, however, has no doubts today:

"There has been lively debate over the past few years about the speed at which reunification came about. Today we can see more clearly than ever before that there was absolutely no alternative to the rapid and decisive action we took. And today there can be no serious doubt

that the moment had to be seized. "Think about the foreign policy situation under which we had to act at that time. Behind closed doors, orthodox communist forces were severely criticising the agreement which President Gorbachev and I had reached in the summer of 1990. In spite of that, the Soviet Union ratified the treaty in 1991 – the last of the four victorious powers of World War II to do so. Mikhail Gorbachev kept his word and fulfilled the agreements concluded in the Caucasus, and for that, I am still grateful to him today.

"Everything which occurred as the Soviet Union collapsed only underlines how right we were to pursue a rapid course towards the re-establishment of German unity. When I look back on that today, I am sure we Germans only had a narrow window of opportunity of four to five months for regaining a united country. If we had waited, that window would have been closed."

As Chancellor Kohl sees it, the intra-German monetary union forged on July 1, 1990 was the foundation for the catching-up process which started the ball rolling for one of the largest reconstruction programmes in the history of the world. Looking at the Germany of today, on the fifth anniversary of unification, what does the Chancellor see as his greatest domestic challenge? "The greatest challenge for all of Germany was and is the fight against unemployment. It's something which affects the fate of countless numbers of people threatened with the loss of self-esteem, their standard of living and the overall quality of their lives. They have a right not only to practical 'solidarity', but they have a right, too, to expect that no effort will be spared in seeking to create a job of work for them to do."

**...a kaleidoscope of regions...**



Many Germans feel the traditional image of them as efficient, but lacking in humour, does less than justice to the Germany of the 1990s. Some, if not all Germans, can even laugh at Mark Twain's memorable quip about the ultimate solemnity of all things German – even their humour. The German joke, he noted, "is no laughing matter".

It is fitting, therefore, that the German government should have chosen to celebrate five years of unity and 50 years of peace by sponsoring a witty and colourful series of posters – some of them

commemorating anti-establishment and iconoclastic artists.

The poster (above) depicts Germany as a kaleidoscope of regions, from Bavaria (green) in the South to Schleswig Holstein (yellow) in the North. Let a thousand flowers bloom, or in Germany's case the sixteen federal Laender. The poster graphically portrays how sixteen Laender can retain their individuality, their local identity and colour, rooted in the same soil of belief in democracy and freedom. Could the same imagery be applied to European Union?

## TRANSFERS TO EASTERN GERMANY TOP DM 500 BILLION

When Germany's Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Chancellor Helmut Kohl insist on observance of the Maastricht criteria for participation in a single currency, it is hard for non-Germans to understand what they sometimes see as an obsession with stable money and sound public finances. But history has taught Germans their overriding importance as the bedrock of the domestic political and social stability which make it possible for Germany to be a good neighbour to the many nations that surround it. There are still people alive today who remember at first hand how it felt when the collapse of society in the 1920s followed the collapse of the currency and opened the way for 12 years of repression and six years of war.

The smashing down of the hated wall undoubtedly expressed the political will of people on both sides and provided dramatic and graphic visual images of history in the making. In the heady days at the end of 1989, few Germans dreamt that it would be the Finance Ministry that would bear the main burden of turning instant joy into solid achievement. In 1990, after the wall dividing Europe and Germany had fallen, there were those who feared that the task of uniting Germany economically as well as politically would impose unbearable strains on people on both sides of the old wall. The task of creating one economic

entity of the new Laender in a socially responsible manner – beggars belief. Annual transfers from the federal budget are roughly the size of Portugal's GNP. In each of the years 1991-95, the federal government has spent DM 100bn to DM 150bn promoting the rapid shift from a stagnant centrally-planned to a flourishing social-market economy.

For all the strength of the German economy, finding these sums was no easy task and required a mix of measures. In the eight years after Chancellor Kohl had formed his first government, Herr Waigel and his predecessors had managed to reduce the state's share of GNP from 50% to 46% by the time of unification. The initial aim was to make way for investment in unification through savings elsewhere. But the urgency and scale of the required spend, along with the need for social reasons to reduce expenditure gradually rather than abruptly, made higher tax revenues and a sharp rise in public sector borrowing inevitable. Of the DM 515bn that has flowed to the East, about DM 170bn has flowed back in tax. Out of net transfers of some DM 345bn, just over DM 200bn has come from budget savings. DM nearly DM 70bn through the uptake of new credit in the form of unity bonds and other instruments, while just over DM 75bn was financed by a temporary "solidarity surcharge" on income and other taxes, in addition, old entity out of two economies that had diverged totally for a generation is not complete. But the progress made in the five years since unification, the growing convergence of East and West and avoidance of major social upheavals: these are the elements of a Wirtschaftswunder – an economic miracle – every bit as miraculous as western Germany's recovery in the 1950s. Today, the so-called new Laender of the old GDR are among the fastest growing regions in Europe, with Gross Domestic Product projected to rise 9.8% this year.

The magnitude of the funds – more than DM 500bn have been devoted to restructuring

**'the new Laender – Europe's fastest growing region'**

fully integrated into the complex financial relationship between the Federal Republic and the Laender. This gives them the means to spend 20% more per head than the old Laender and to make capital investment 100% higher per head – essential as part of the catching up process.

But "throwing money" at the new Laender, necessary as this has been, is only part of the solution. The other part is organiza-

## A NEW BEGINNING FOR ALL OF EUROPE

Klaus Kinkel has been Germany's foreign minister and deputy Chancellor for three years – a period when Germany has been called upon to play an ever more active role in world politics. For the first time the Germans find themselves surrounded only by friends and partners; and like the Chancellor, Herr Kinkel sees consolidating Germany's place in an ever more united Europe as his, and his country's, prime foreign policy objective. But at a time when Europe and Germany have been forced by the tragic events in former Yugoslavia to play a proactive role in wider international affairs – as political entities in their own right and as key elements in NATO and the United Nations – Klaus Kinkel's has been a distinctive voice on the world political arena. In the article that follows, edited by The Times, he sets out his vision of Germany's international role. Its size and history impose a special responsibility on Germany which Herr Kinkel wants to see fulfilled:

"The overriding issue for us remains the harmonious integration of our country into a free, functioning Europe which is close to and sensitive to the wishes of its citizens. The European Union's 1996 Intergovernmental Conference must create the conditions for better fulfilling popular expectations and coping with impending expansion. The Union will



grow from its present members to well over 20. Prague, Warsaw and Budapest are as much part of Europe as Rome, Paris, Berlin or London. Achieving this ambitious goal will require a major effort, but it will be worth it."

"The unification of Europe, however, must not be allowed to put distance between us and America. NATO remains the cornerstone of European security. But our channels across the Atlantic must be widened. This is why I have been working actively for a transatlantic free trade zone in recent months. The USA, Canada and the EU live on free world trade and from free access to world markets. Together with the Americans we want to tighten the joint security net in Europe through closer cooperation in NATO, the EU, the WEU and the OSCE. There can be no new lines of division in Europe, no falling back into old disputes. And that is why the incorporation of Russia into this security structure is of decisive importance.

The end of the cold war which split Germany in two and made it a potential battle ground for the great powers has made the Federal Republic a safer place. But the resulting fragmentation of the world has sparked new conflicts which involve Germany as a major European power and a member of the United Nations. Klaus Kinkel has been actively engaged as a member of the Yugoslav Contact Group in seeking peaceful solutions in the Balkans. Global problems require global solutions and he regards the United Nations, for all its imperfections as an organisation, as more important than ever. Reform of the security council to reflect today's political realities would also give Germany the opportunity to play a more active role in helping world problems.

"The terrible war in former Yugoslavia remains the measure of the new multilateral security policy which has arisen since the end of the Cold War... the spread of weapons of mass destruction, migration caused by poverty, the destruction of the environment and population explosions call for global answers. The United Nations is more important today than it was when it was founded 50 years ago. Of course the organisation

is in need of reform. But the institution can only be as effective as its members allow it to be. The United Nations is the only alternative to making the law of jungle the order of the day. Strengthening the UN, therefore, is an important part of German foreign policy. This includes reform of the Security Council whose composition no longer reflects the world as it is today."

For Germany, the key to its policy of closer integration in Europe remains the special relationship with France. It was first forged more than 30 years ago by Konrad Adenauer and General de Gaulle, re-emphasised some 20 years on by Helmut Kohl's predecessor Helmut Schmidt and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and cemented by Herr Kohl and president François Mitterrand as they held hands in a gesture of reconciliation to commemorate the dead of two world wars in 1984. But real friendship, between nations as between individuals, cannot mean muzzling disagreement where a friend is believed to be acting wrongly as in the case with France's series of nuclear tests. A recent "offer" by France to shelter Germany under its nuclear umbrella prompted its foreign minister to explain the German position: "As soon as we have concrete proposals from the French, we will examine them and discuss them with our other partners. But our rejection of the possession and production of nuclear weapons remains absolute, and the Atlantic alliance must not be put in jeopardy."

"The permanent extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty was a sign that the community of nations had recognised its responsibility in an area which is so important for security. Everything must be done to ensure that the present round of comprehensive test ban negotiations are successfully concluded next year. Nuclear testing no longer fits the times we live in. Protection of human rights, democratisation, free enterprise and the rule of law are the best means of preventing crises as well as the best foundation for lasting development. Germany will continue to show an active commitment to these causes."

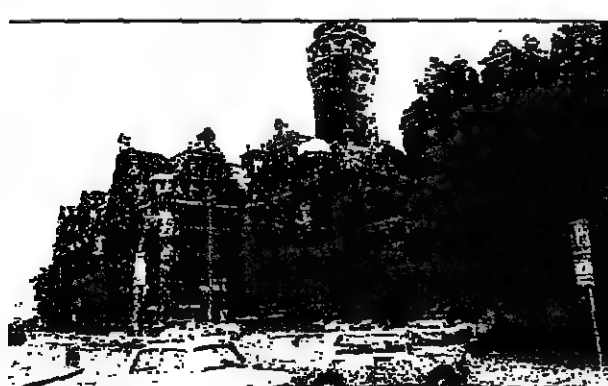
## Unification: A Chronicle

1989: January 15 Demonstrations in Leipzig call for freedom of speech.  
September 11 Hungary opens border to West. 15,000 East Germans escape via Austria.  
November 4/5 Mass demonstrations in East Berlin pressure the regime to open the borders on November 9.  
November 28 Chancellor Kohl presents ten-point reunification programme.  
1990: July 1 The West German Deutschmark becomes the official currency of East Germany.  
October 3 GERMANY IS REUNITED.  
December 2 United Germany goes to the polls.  
1991: January 17 The Bundestag elects Helmut Kohl as first Chancellor of United Germany.  
March 15 The Soviet Union ratifies Unification Treaty already approved by Britain, France and USA. Germany's sovereignty is formally recognised.



June 28 The Bundestag votes for Berlin as the seat of Government and Parliament.  
1994: May 23 Roman Herzog replaces Richard von Weizsäcker as German President.  
August 31 Russian troops withdraw from German soil. Eight days later, British, French and American troops leave Berlin.  
1995: May 8 Germany and the four allies commemorate the end of hostilities in Europe fifty years on.  
October 3 Today, Germans celebrate five years of unity.

## Business booms in Leipzig



For many westerners, a visit to Leipzig – cold dark and grey – but the centre for the annual East/West trade fair was their only impression of the old GDR. It was hard to square the sullen city with the tag given it by Germany's greatest poet. Charmed by the social life in its numerous cafes, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe called it "little Paris". Five years after reunification, the transformation is even more remarkable. The streets and cafes are swarming with visitors, speaking in a babel of different languages and German regional accents.

Leipzig today is the boom town of Europe. Monotones have given way to a riot of colours as the city has restored houses, hotels, shops and apartment buildings. It is also the building site of Europe with 800 cranes towering over the city and its separate 7,000 construction sites. A total of over DM 30bn has been invested in the city in only five years. At a cost of well over DM 1bn, the city is building a new home for its trade fair. Its super-modern glass palace, now approaching completion, is set to become Germany's most advanced

exhibition hall and is designed to revive the city's traditions as a centre for world trade.

Incredibly, Leipzig – well situated to link the industrial centres of western Europe and the rapidly developing economies of eastern Europe – is the second biggest banking centre in Germany, after Frankfurt am Main. The arrival of banks and the revival of the city as a service-oriented centre has sent the cost of rents and building skyrocketing. In the town centre, developers pay up to DM 20,000 per sq. metre of building land.

The railway has always played a central role in the life of Leipzig. The terminal built in 1915, now under a protection order, is the largest in Europe with its 267-metre long concourse serving 26 platforms and tracks. Deutsche Bahn AG has set aside DM 300m on refurbishment to return it to its former glory.

If the sight of all that energy doesn't leave you exhausted, Leipzig is worth a visit: for business, for pleasure or for both.

Unity

Who will be





## GERMAN UNIFICATION

FOCUS

Five years after German unification, Roger Boyes reports on how east is finally meeting west

## Unity yields its fruit

Striding through the heavy drizzle, shielded by bodyguards with over-size umbrellas, Chancellor Kohl looked particularly pleased with himself on a short trip to Cottbus the other day.

The city is on the eastern fringe of Germany, close to the Polish border, and it has just put on a garden show with rolling lawns and great swathes of colour. The German leader had come to bless a flower, the big bulbous (but unfortunately red) Chancellor Kohl Rose. Herr Kohl was satisfied not only because he likes plants (they don't talk back) but because five years after unification one of his most memorable promises has taken shape. After the Berlin Wall fell, Herr Kohl pledged to the nervous east Germans that by 1995 their region would be a "blossoming landscape".

The promise is being honoured not only in the Cottbus park. Elsewhere, too — new factories, in and around the high street — the rhetorical phrase is coming to life. Of course, eastern cities still have drab, pitiful faces; unemployment is high and the best part of a generation, the 40 to 50-year-olds, feel stranded by the market revolution. But the visitor to the east can feel a rare dynamism, a vibrancy not always evident in the west.

The German economy is set to grow by 2.9 per cent this year — but in the east it will surge forward by 9 per cent. Incomes are rising and in most sectors are between 75 and 80 per cent of western wages. Since living costs are still much lower than in the west, life has become easier. In Müritzer, a brandy, yellow costs 60 pfennigs, a glass of beer DMS, but in eastern Schwedt, a better-tasting roll will cost half as much and the beer is DM3 a glass.

Companies born in the rubble of the planned economy are becoming competitive. More important, perhaps, the east Germans have overcome their initial bitterness and bewilderment about the terms of unification and have emerged as more self-confident.

Sit in one of the new cafés in Leipzig's shopping boulevard — aluminium tables, rubber plants and astonishingly polite service — and you will hear the rumble of moaning of thirty-year-olds. But they are grumbling about corruption in German football clubs, about the crime rate, about the cost of central heating, the edgy comments about western colonisation of the east (so frequently heard in 1991-92) have been replaced by a thoroughly democratic culture of complaint.

Westerners and easterners grumble about the same things, not about each other. That is a kind of progress. And, privately, many east Germans will tell you: yes, it has worked out. They have understood a simple fact — the still tenacious problems of eastern Germany are the result of 45 years of Communist rule and mismanagement, not of the past five years of unity.

Unification winners include local hairdressers and the owners of petrol stations (one of the great unsung success stories of unification is the way that east German consumers have switched wholesale to unleaded petrol). There are self-starters who have established computer training schools. Craftsmen who have moved quickly to fill the gap left by the years of over-planned economics, doctors, dentists, vets and electricians. "Anyone who can survive the current east German competition is more than



On October 3, 1990, one million people converged at the Brandenburg Gate to celebrate the end of Communist rule in East Germany

fit enough for western capitalism," says Hans Peter Stihl, of the Institute of Economic Research in Halle, says.

In some sectors the competition is almost cut-throat. Car salesmen, video and television rental firms, small construction companies crash quickly, to be replaced by stronger, more efficient rivals.

Productivity is still lagging a long way behind the west. But in the large new factories — Opel in Eisenach, the Siemens micro-chip plant in Dresden — it is catching up quickly. And the big government projects for infrastructural projects in the east are more than just a drain on the budget; they are already beginning to transform the region. Telecommunications engineers for example have been laying state-of-the-art glass-fibre cables — in the west most phone lines use copper cable.

The mere existence of yellow telephone booths on street corners is regarded as something of a miracle by easterners who well remember the problems of making a phone connection. The new power stations of the east are safe and clean (pollution levels have dropped dramatically in the past five years). Sewage filtration plants, newly built, are far more efficient than those in the west.

The dynamism of the east raises two important questions. First, how far should the east be pushed into uniformity with the west? Second, how far has the energy and cost (DM1,000 billion over the past five years) of unification distracted from the need to reform the western institutions which have been simply expanded to include the 17 million new citizens?

"Perfect equality or uniformity of the Germans cannot be achieved and is in any case not desirable,"



Helmut Kohl headed east to see the new rose bearing his name

says Ilse Spittman, a veteran observer of the east Germans. For the past five years, the east Germans have been studied almost microscopically to see how quickly they are becoming "westerners". The number of television sales and video rentals, the frequency of double glazing — all this, and far more is gathered and stored by the Government.

Yet nowadays, the easterners

rarely see themselves as "easterners". An opinion poll in Saxony in May this year showed that half the respondents regarded themselves primarily as Saxons, a third primarily as Germans, and only a fifth as east Germans or "Ossis".

Regionalism is the key to understanding the present process of unification. The differences between east and west Germans will always be more interesting than the

convergences. Above all they highlight the weakness of western institutions.

In a survey by the Allensbach Institute (March 1995), pollsters found that 73 per cent of east Germans thought there was no true equality before the law in Germany. 76 per cent felt insufficiently protected by the police (compared with 44 per cent of the sampled westerners). 60 per cent were unhappy with the performance of the courts. Another poll showed that 57 per cent of east Germans thought the old East German state treated women better, that the Communists had a better social security system and that education and housing problems were better managed under Erich Honecker.

West Germans are shocked when they hear these results: they interpret the criticism as a blanket rejection of German unity. But all the surveys since 1990 have shown a triumphing majority in the east in favour of unity. No, the uncomfortable fact is that the western system which "won" the Cold War was far from perfect, and was overdue for reform.

East Germans, the Ossis, are wrongly being accused of ingratitude when they point out the shortcomings of the west, they are merely seeing things from a different and perhaps clearer perspective.

The decisive moment will come in 1998 when the seat of government shifts to Berlin. The step eastwards will also be a time of critical self-examination.

One thing is for certain: the tenth anniversary of German unity will be celebrated in a different context. "In the year 2000," an official told me only half in jest, "we will all be Ossis. And you know what? I'm quite looking forward to it."

## Is Germany competitive?

The first unified Germany, Bismarck's modern European power, swiftly developed into a great exporting nation. An obsession with quality and reliable service, a heavy industry that quickly integrated new techniques, hundreds of small companies willing to exploit market niches, inventors such as Diesel and Daimler: all this compensated for Germany's lack of a colonial empire.

Germany, unified again, is still in the major league of exporters. Now, however, it is also a top exporter of jobs. German car manufacturers are building assembly plants in South America, the United States, China and Eastern Europe. German capital goods manufacturers are setting up factories in South-East Asia and the Middle East. Smaller engineering companies are expanding production in other European countries such as Italy. Siemens has chosen to site its new microchip factory not in Dresden but in Newcastle. Mercedes-Benz is constructing its energy-saving car in France. Bayer, Hoechst and Grundig are all busily building plants abroad.

Is Germany becoming less attractive and less competitive? Certainly wage costs and social contributions are the highest in Europe. "If you ask a Japanese car manufacturer why he prefers producing in Great Britain rather than Germany, his arguments will be low social contributions, a flexible wage system, favourable taxes and lower environmental standards," says Hans Peter Stihl, chairman of the German Chamber of Commerce, who is a loud lobbyist for structural reform.

However, the shift of production abroad is not a disturbing trend at all, he says; it is merely a logical competitive response. Factories set up in Eastern Europe operate at a fraction of the German wage costs and they open up new markets; German products are beginning to dominate central Europe. German plants in the United States have to some degree overcome the effects of the mark-dollar exchange rate. And the high wage costs alone do not blunt Germany's competitive edge.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in a recent analysis, worked out that German labour costs account for only a quarter of the total value of manufactured goods. Many non-labour costs have

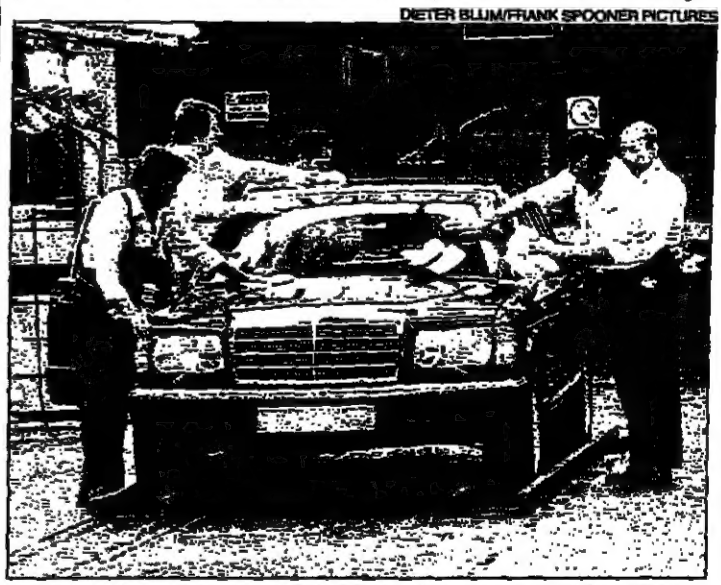
been pushed down over the past few years since unification. For the time being, at least, the "made-in-Germany" label keeps Germany's exports surging ahead. The quality of brand leaders such as Mercedes, BMW, Siemens and Grundig sways customer opinion and persuades him to dig deeper into his pocket. Smaller engineering companies have important niches in machine tools, precision instruments and other industrial equipment markets: in those areas reliability, accurate delivery times and prompt servicing count for more than price comparisons.

Yet most economists agree that all is not as it should be in German commerce. The recession of the early 1990s started politicians thinking hard about reform. Frantic attempts at reform were made. Tax cuts were announced, some manufacturers have begun experimenting with shorter but more flexible working weeks. There are serious attempts under way to cut social spending and public debt. The privatisation plans for the German rail and postal services have drawn praise.

But as economic recovery took hold, so the energy ebbed. Nowadays it is very difficult to get German politicians to address these structural problems. How, for example, is the Government to tackle the country's flagging spirit of innovation? In 1980, Germany was second only to the US in terms of registered patents. The US registered 18,313. Germany logged 14,387 and Japan 11,822. By 1990 Japan had overtaken Germany (America: 27,488; Japan: 21,140; and Germany: 14,421). Cynics say Germany is indeed a great exporter — of 19th-century products. It is lagging far behind on the technologies that will dominate the 21st century: in particular, telecommunications and computers.

This criticism, however, misses the point. Germany may be rigid in some ways but it has proved remarkably adept at integrating new technologies into its products. German workers learn quickly and their engineers are excellent at adapting factory work systems. This, rather than the brilliant backroom inventor, has become Germany's competitive strength in Europe.

Germany is not on the beginning of a long-term decline. It will be giving its neighbours a run for their money well into the next century.



The "made-in-Germany" label keeps its exports surging ahead

## Who will be the leaders of tomorrow's federal republic?

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has promised to step down in 1998. Who will take his place after the country's general election?



Up-and-coming Germans: Joachim Gauck, left, Heide Simonis, Jürgen Rüttgers and Claudia Nolte

have requested access to their files and half a million requests have been processed over the past five years.

Herr Gauck will be a busy man until the year 2000 — unless, as is rumoured, he runs as a candidate in the 1998 election. Suggested job: Germany's Minister of Truth.

WHO CAN beat Helmut Kohl in the 1998 general election? The official rival is Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democrat leader, but he seems to be dying a death by a thousand pinpricks as various party chiefs jostle for his job. An

unusual and yet credible alternative is just beginning to emerge: Heide Simonis, the 52-year-old Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein. First, she has to win a state election next March. After that, the witty fast-talker could well throw her hat in the ring. She taught German in Zambia and Japan before going into politics and has developed a reputation as a hard-headed economic policymaker. She has shaken up the civil service in her northern state and is feared by the public service union as a formidable negotiator.

Male deputies snigger about her fashion sense — she wears big floppy hats that virtually cover her long, be-speckled face and she tends to wear between eight or ten rings on her fingers. "Knuckle dusters," her critics say. She replies: "So long as I understand something about economics, I can indulge in any fashion I want."

TIPPED as a possible successor to Chancellor Kohl, 44-year-old Jürgen Rüttgers has an appropriate title: Minister of the Future. He is a trained lawyer but he has quickly

mastered his brief to restore Germany's innovative edge. His official portfolio covers education, science, research and technology. His interests are broad — from space exploration to holographic art — and he has a shrewd understanding of his Christian Democrat party.

The Chancellor likes his cool analyses of party mechanics (based partly on his experience as a whip) and they have a personal relationship which some compare to that of a doctoral supervisor with his bright young student. He has admirers even on

the opposition benches. The Greens, despite their traditional distaste for and distrust of technology, talk well about the pipe-smoking Roman Catholic from Cologne.

The Christian Democrats have to solve the riddle of how to replace Herr Kohl if, as promised, he steps down in 1998. If the party decides to skip a generation — the ambitious 50-year-olds who have grown old waiting for Kohl to retire — the crown could end up on Dr Rüttgers's well-regarded head.

NOBODY was surprised in Germany when a diminutive 29-year-old woman ended up in a Bangkok brothel. Claudia Nolte, Rostock-born Family Minister, is famous for her tenacity and research.

She used the United Nations Women's Conference in Peking recently to carry out some research in the region into the exploitation of Asian women and child prostitution. Frau Nolte is a devout Roman Catholic and zealous opponent of abortion. This causes her some political problems, even from the liberal wing of her party, but she is either too young or too shrewd to take much notice. In any case, she enjoys the favour of the Chancellor, who couldn't believe his luck: after problems with a string of east German Chris-

tian Democrats, he has at last found someone who can speak for easterners, for women, for young people and who is nonetheless at one with the Catholic roots of the party.

She has come under fire for neglecting her three-year-old son, who is cared for mainly

by her husband. That pressure has eased since the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, recently became the father of a son. "I would like to know," asked Frau Nolte with tongue in cheek, "how he manages to combine paternity with a political career."

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## Manager of the month makes the most from newcomers to Premiership

# Value-for-money deals bring success in ITF

**T**he leading ITF (Interactive Team Football) manager in September showed remarkable foresight in his team selection. Mr K James, from Abbeymead, in Gloucestershire, wins £500 as the first manager of the month in the state-of-the-art football game introduced this season by *The Times* in association with Sky Sports.

with sky sports. James has accumulated 160 points from some clever purchases. The most difficult clubs to assess when building an ITF side are those new to the FA Carling Premiership. It is often worth considering a striker from a promoted club — Fabian De Freitas, of Bolton Wanderers, has been popular among ITF managers — as they come relatively cheaply and cannot directly give you negative points through weak performances. However, buying into the defence of a promoted club is another matter altogether, with the threat of the type of defensive collapse hanging over them that hit Swindon Town after promotion.

Bolton are already exhibiting early signs of promotion leakage, having conceded 18 goals already this season. Middlesbrough, however, are not only holding their own but, along with Newcastle United, at present have the best defensive record in the Premiership, having conceded only four goals.

Full marks then to Mr James for buying Gary Walsh, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, and Nigel Pearson, the Middlesbrough central defender. Both have Premiership experience, of course, having been transferred from Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday respectively and they will no doubt feature strongly in more ITF teams as transfers are made.

Walsh and Pearson together cost £1.5 million, which left Mr James with cash to spare for the purchase of the more-established Premiership defenders, Lee Dixon and Rob Jones. Mr James's side in full

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH**



comprises: Gary Walsh (Middlesbrough), Lee Dixon (Arsenal), Rob Jones (Liverpool), Mark Wright (Liverpool), Nigel Pearson (Middlesbrough), Chris Waddle (Sheffield Wednesday), Trevor Sinclair (Queens Park Rangers), Steve Stone (Nottingham Forest), Ian Woan (Nottingham Forest), Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur). This astute line-up is managed by Kevin Keegan, who although expensive at £4 million is proving a much better buy than Ray Harford, who cost £5 million.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be

eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season are available for transfer.

There are several rules to follow when making a transfer:

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-Tone), call the 0691 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the public of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week.

player transferred out of a team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example, a full back a full back — so that the composition of a goalkeeper, two backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two forwards and a manager is maintained.

When making a transfer, must ensure that the team still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one owner and a manager) from the same club.

you are lagging behind leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the case for the £50,000 prize or monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you using your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players entered sides of their own, and Richard Sneekes, a chairman who plays for Bolton Wanderers, gives his selection on the opposite page and picked a team of English and foreign players.

all matches in the Premier-  
and those in the FA Cup  
living Premiership clubs  
at and your players and  
manager win *and* lose you  
ts.

**☐ All queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 01582 488122.**



Pearson, left, is ready to rise to the challenge for Middlesbrough, in the FA Carling Premiership, and Kevin Kickers, in the ITF game.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1985-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Score Loss	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misuses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team losses	1pt

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

**Call 0891 333 331**

Call will be charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 43p per minute at other times.  
If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 490 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (TTF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.



The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 8pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

**You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week.**

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category for example a full back for a full back.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

**Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.**

	Opponent Club								
	Club								
	Player in								
	Club								

## THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERAC

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Karrier Kickers	(P Harrison)	163
2	Barnet United	(P Barnard)	162
3	Nipiga Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	158
=4	Twilight United	(P C Dwinth)	156
=4	Physic T V	(T Vardy)	156
5	The Subjugators	(M P Ayres)	155
=7	Triple Peakers	(J B Portwood)	154
=7	Jessica Darlings 4	(Mr A Hudson)	153
=7	Gothic Code 65	(Mr S Gohil)	153
10	Not Got A Chance	(M Clark)	152
=11	Supervillains	(R Hassall)	151
=11	The Cutting Edge	(Mr A Weston)	151
13	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	150
14	Ramothic Bombers	(J Hurd)	149
=15	Roless Supers	(P Sutton)	148
=15	Walters Wanderers	(Walters Wanderers)	148
=15	Walters Wanderers	(Mr D J Farmer)	148
=15	London's Longshots	(C London)	148
=15	Born In Tashkent	(Mr D McMeMahon)	148
=15	No Defence Ok	(J B Portwood)	148
=21		(P Hanna)	147
=21	Firebrars Return	(K Davlin)	147
=21	Drumser Flap	(Mr G Wesson)	147
=21	Tommy's Coats X 1	(P Johnson)	147
=21	The Crucial Eleven	(A Stroud)	147
=26	James Boys Six	(M L Jones)	146
=26	Ashtford Borough	(Mr W Donoghue)	146
=26	KBT LTD	(R Patterson)	145
=28	Dirty Boogers	(G Fallowfield)	145
=28	The Butler	(S Urmagey)	145
=28	Watfley Wanderers	(S D Whistley)	145
=28	P S V Bezzies	(A Mc Cole)	145
=28	Militta Pathetic	(Mrs J A Grainger)	145
=28	Car's Hotshots	(C Garmese)	145
=35	Mighty Men 1	(C Marshall)	144
=35	Merte Mates 20	(Mr M Hitz)	144
=35	Hotte End Heroes	(Mrs S Cooley)	144
=35	Arny's Athletics	(A R Horne)	144
=35	Chuch Association	(A Schuch)	144
=35	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	144
=35	Annette's Answers	(A Smith)	144
=35	P S D Eleven	(P Desai)	144
=35	Madrid Knights	(R Jenkinson)	144
=35	Pargies Fory	(P Simpson)	144
=45	Sovern Legal	(M Moore)	143
=45	Old Nicky Evans	(Mr P Johnson)	143
=45	Becky's Babes	(D J Ready)	143
=48	Hope FC	(N Bates)	142
=48	A Team	(A James)	142
=48	Glow In The Dark	(J Smith)	142
=48	The Premier Raiders 1	(Miss C Ellis)	142
=48	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	142
=48	Then United	(N Giddings)	142
=48	Edmopse United	(R Edmondson)	142
=48	Watbeck Minits	(C Lang)	142
=48	Diastor Area	(S Pottinge)	142
=48	Physio And Smiths	(K Scott)	142
=58	Olives	(M Stephenson)	141
=58	Slaves Lions 6	(S Brower)	141
=58	Jeasmond 100	(S Murray)	141
=58	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	141
=58	Stirling Villains	(M Sadie)	141
=58	Jonathan's Jams	(J Ludge)	141
=58	Poundswick Pupils	(J Pletier)	141
=65	Rovers FC	(D Summerhall)	140
=65	Moorside Farm	(G Dallimore)	140
=65	Hirako 1st 11	(R Hardy)	140
=65	Incasts	(B Brown)	140



**FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING**

Calls will be charged at 35p per minute cheap rate, 45p per minute at other times

Call the ITF checkline on  
**0891 774 796**

<p>Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's P.I.N. The line is open from noon each day</p>			
Pos	Team	(Player's name)	P
=65	Mac United	(T McCuskey)	14
=65	Dave's Dribblers	(D Hart)	14
=65	Roxana Rangers	(T Hodgkinson)	14
=65	The Warbirds	(K Anwar)	14
=65	Gothika Gods 34	(M R Gohli)	14
=65	Robinson Torn	(A Barnes)	14
=65	Al's Absorbs	(A Harcock)	14
=65	Long Live The Queen	(L Wilson)	14
=65	Sporting Siders	(K Daughly)	14
=65	No Hoppers	(S Harts)	14
=65	Shrimpy	(D Collier)	14
=61	Fudge's Fools	(J Abu Heleil)	13
=61	Stanley Lions	(A Boyd)	13
=61	Inter Red Dragon	(D Williams)	13
=61	Crystal Eagles	(M R Brock)	13
=61	Effortless Achievers	(A West)	13
=61	The Assassins	(C Green)	13
=61	Jackpot For Shurt	(M D Shaw)	13
=61	The Tommy Knockers	(K Angove)	13
=61	Bernard Pie	(P Lovatt)	13
=61	Wolves Of Fantic	(S Adamson)	13
=61	Crette De La Pram	(M R Teetaras)	13
=61	They're Here	(M P Johnson)	13
=61	Lobbia Lowers	(M F Johnson)	13
=61	Mama Ramus F C	(J Arnes)	13
=61	The Evil Eyes	(D Collins)	13
=61	Francis Caldwell F C	(F Caldwell)	13
=61	Rooks Rovers	(S Rook)	13
=61	Ballast Rangers	(M R Crowe)	13
=61	Gary's Heroes	(J)	13
=61	Dennis Dynamics 2	(H Francis)	13
=101	Scud 4	(S Francis)	13
=101	Gary Pearce	(G D Peatrot)	13
=101	Lynnes Line Up	(L Roworth)	13
=101	Newman	(P Gerry)	13
=101	Firefly City	(I Harrison)	13
=101	Special Mode	(S Hewman)	13
=101	Ramsey Rovers	(P Hill)	13
=101	Barnet F C	(M P Johnson)	13
=101	Lor's Ltd	(N Laine)	13
=101	Mercatice Broms 2	(S MacLennan)	13

Pos	Team	(Player's name)
-101	Champions 1995-96	(S Mc Gill)
-101	Richard's Rabbits	(P Lewis)
-101	Twinklows Two	(J Brown)
-114	Acc FC	(M R Nightingale)
-114	Zinc Alloys	(D Ricony)
-114	Sparky	(M Radcliffe)
-114	Tunde United	(Dr T Adetunji)
-114	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)
-114	Woodside Boys	(L Atkin)
-114	Gang Eleven	(S Coward)
-114	Map 6	(M Priestley)
-114	Shep's Super Squad	(T Shepherd)
-114	Lancers United	(Mr M M Kirkwood)
-114	Burnley Bounce Back	(L McNally)
-114	Happy Wanderers	(Mr T Naughton)
-114	Elm Park Aphids	(Mr J M S Pelly)
-114	Rangers Rovers	(M Siggal)
-114	The Bacon Slicers	(A Coulter)
-114	A C Avengers	(C Wright)
-114	Murphys Law	(M Garner)
-114	Vip Ikon Rovers	(P Robson)
-132	Charmwayne	(S Stevenson)
-132	Midiamonds	(S McCannell)
-132	Ardle FC	(W J Harris)
-132	Portrush Rovers	(M Denton)
-132	Enson Forgers	(W Liu)
-132	Willington United	(G Foster)
-132	Hull Red Devils	(S Harde)
-132	Treacle Heroes	(Mr S Williams)
-132	Zappa Aliens	(S Goss)
-132	Unifly Lads	(Mr Dr J Hornsby)
-132	Black August	(S Hill)
-132	Buster The Dog	(P Nesbitt)
-132	Geordie Jackpot	(P Mennie)
-132	Freedom X1	(J Nicholl)
-132	Dylannwy Mail	(D R Owen)
-132	Map 5	(M Priestley)
-132	Arundel United	(N Codd)
-132	Fair Fax Flapstar	(C Woodward)
-132	Real Athletic	(Mrs G Keynes)
-132	Seawards Hair	(Mr P Johnston)
-132	Blatant Orient	(J Clay)
-132	Oh There It Is!	(P Jones)
-132	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)
-132	Rioters Rovers	(D Widdow)
-132	T L T Ltd	(M Lucas)
-132	Silrow Voles	(H Brinkley)
-132	Martinez 5	(T Martin)
-132	Fingers Crossed	(CH Puppelston)
-132	Robaredholrovers	(R Cook)
-162	WOLF	(M Morgan)
-162	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)
-162	Goalies 3rds	(J Goodman)
-162	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)
-162	Noodles Buns	(S Gzanti)
-162	The Doug Hutchies	(M Stacey)
-162	BFC	(P Byth)
-162	Woodlands Perk	(C Austin)
-162	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)
-162	Maggie's Marvels	(M Welsh)
-162	The X Men	(M Walker)
-162	Noctules	(A Cornick)
-162	Lee Gagrants	(P Crosby)
-162		(K Bowman)
-162	Nazira From Halfway	(Ms J Langdon)
-162	Porn Stars 3	(D Jones)
-162	Papa 'New Grinies'	(G Hudson)
-162	Be Saving You	(Mr P Johnston)

Pos	Team	(Player's name)
136	162 Heavy Hilda	(Mr T Thompson)
136	162 Cork Meadows	(S Gentry)
136	162 Boyce's Rangers	(P M Brown)
137	162 The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)
137	162 The Jellies	(M J Adams)
137	162 Petrol Plovers	(K Fallon)
137	162 Donkey And Co	(T Robson)
137	162 Zoozy's S Band	(M Matthews)
137	162 Tooty Tots	(Mr B Seed)
137	162 Garlic Bread	(D Collier)
137	162 Petes Collection	(Mr B Moss)
137	162 Martinids 4	(T Martin)
137	162 Mace Marvels	(Max Watson)
137	162 Blackpinks	(W Gayle)
137	162 Topper And Southern	(S McArthur)
137	162 Sky Interactions	(J T Smith)
137	162 Benadish Ltd	(Mr M Strindberg)
137	162 The Red Hot XI	(M Fornias)
137	162 Harrow F C	(M Volans)
137	162 Tyas Blue Hoses	(Mr S Tye)
137	162 Venn Diogenes Ltd	(R Goodall)
137	162 Soccer Hogs Ltd	(A Burnett)
136	162 Goals Please	(A Good)
136	162 Wallace & Gromit F C	(Mr S Hyams)
136	162 Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)
136	162 Partizan Soccer 1	(Mr D Skolnikov)
136	162 The Tannan Comets	(M Anholo)
136	162 Soccerclubbie F C	(M Ruffin)
136	162 Plymouth Panthers	(G Rofley)
136	162 Dream On 2	(A Closs)
136	162 Walling Warriors	(P Sherrin)
136	162 Fantasy Flapjacks	(I Hield)
136	162 Robbie's Ravens	(R Kelly)
136	162 Ravine Rangers	(T Helly)
136	162 I F K Basinghough	(J Gage)
136	162 Sharpy's Supertees	(Mr A Sheppies)
136	162 Sam's Sam's	(S Bennett)
136	162 Elmstons Eleven	(S Muggidge)
136	162 Melvins	(C G Mitchell)
136	162 Partisans	(E Donato)
136	162 Buckley City	(M H Buckley)
136	162 Marzban	(M Simmonds)
136	162 Novoconchans	(E Donato)
136	162	(E Scott)
136	162 Red Hangers	(T Timmons)
136	162 Redcar	(G Thompson)
136	162 The Dream of 8r	(P Hearshen)
136	162 MFC	(M Closs)
136	162 Steves Lions 2	(S Brewer)
136	162 Hanoi	(G Behdjovian)
136	162 Wotton Windows F C	(S J J Horneby)
136	162 The Rising Storm	(Mr D J Horneby)
136	162 I Need Another 500s	(R Wood)
136	162 Ipswich Hopefuls	(N Ford)
136	162 Dicks Destroyers	(Mr R Dickinson)
136	162 Say Horse Resources	(G Paves)
136	162 The Specialists	(J Maye)
136	162 S B N 1	(G Sutt)
136	162 F C Vintis	(J Coward)
136	162 The Remolins	(D Frial)
136	162 The Citians	(G Smith)
136	162 South Munt Soccer 95	(J Smith)
136	162 Percy Pussys Cats	(P Trachuk)
136	162 Last Lot	(NF Smith)
136	162 Striders 35	(C O'Garra)
136	162 Chas Turpins	(Mr N Hemming)
136	162 Good-Then Boys	(R P Crook)
136	162 Lovely Ladiesvins	(H Milner)
136	162 Pelicans	(J Pearson)
136	162 Burns Acutis	(JP Barre)

[illegible]



## The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-3	-22
10102	R Minns	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-7
10201	P Schmechel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	-5
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5	-2
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-3	-6
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lurie	Leeds United	3.00	+5	+2
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-7
10601	P Smith	Newcastle United	2.50	-5	-2
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Heskop	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10701	J Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-3	-1
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.00	0	0
11002	D Bessent	Southampton	1.00	0	0
11101	D Kharin	Chelsea	1.00	0	0
11102	K Hitzhcop	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
11201	D Swann	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-3	-1
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-3	-1
11401	L Mladetko	West Ham United	2.50	-3	-1
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	-6
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Flett	Coventry City	1.50	-5	-22
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Imnel	Manchester City	2.00	-5	-16
11801	M Bonnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+5	+14
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	+13
12001	K Brannigan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	-28
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-1	-5
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	2.50	0	-3
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	-3
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	-3
20204	P Neill	Manchester United	0.75	-1	-1
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+4	+9
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+8
20303	A-J Handan	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+11	+11
20402	S-Bjornabye	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	-1	-11
20501	A Dorogi	Leeds United	3.50	0	+8
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+6
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-3
20504	K Sharp	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+16
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+16
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-4
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-8
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	0
20704	D Karetke	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-3
20801	D Reddy	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	-2
20802	D Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	0
20803	N Zola	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	0
20901	A Kinsie	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+2
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	-1	-7
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-2	-2
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	-2
21002	F Bernal	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+3
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+7
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	+4	+11
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+12
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+13
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
21301	D Petreacu	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-1
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+4
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-1
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00	0	-2
21402	T Brackner	West Ham United	3.00	0	-6
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
21501	G Abbott	Everton	2.50	0	+6
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	-2	-4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	0
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	-4
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	-2	-7
21701	T Phelan	Manchester City	1.50	0	-8
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-7
21703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0	0
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	-3	-5
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+16
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50	+4	+15
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21804	B King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4	+14
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+11
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
22001	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-8
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-10
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-10
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+2
22005	S McAnealy	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	-2	-2
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-2	-1
30103	N Marler	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+3
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	1.50	0	0
30203	D May	Manchester United	3.50	+4	+8
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+3
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
30303	C Tiller	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+10
30401	P Babo	Liverpool	3.50	-1	-8
30402	N Radlock	Liverpool	3.50	-1	-1
30403	J Scates	Liverpool	1.00	0	+9
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Watford	Leeds United	3.50	+4	+11
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+7
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1
30504	D O'Leary	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
30505	P Beasley	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+1
30601	P Albart	Newcastle United	4.00	0	0
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+16
30603	D Pasco	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+16
30701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-3
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	-2
30703	S Nathaniel	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-1
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0



Sneekes believes that foreign imports will raise the standard of play generally in the FA Carling Premiership

## Receiving foreign aid

Richard Sneekes, a Dutch  
midfielder player for Bolton,  
makes his ITF selections

MY TEAM is called Foreign United, for obvious reasons. I started off by wanting to select a team entirely of Dutch players but that did not work out so well. I had no full backs and three or four centre forwards, so I had to drop a few.

Then I started to pick some other foreign players and that made my team. But I still had a problem. I needed one more full back but I was running out of money. I wanted to get Bjornabye, from Liverpool, but he cost £3 million and I only had £1 million left so I went for Neil Cox, from Middlesbrough, the only Englishman in my team. It was all a bit of fun really. I just wanted to see what I could do with my £3 million.

It's not difficult to pick out my star player - that has to be Ruud Geulit - although I do think I've got good value for my money with all my players. Geulit has meant so much to Dutch football; he's played at the highest level in Holland and in Italy and he's won everything except the World Cup. At 33 he's still showing what he can do.

It's refreshing to see him play a sweeper's role at Chelsea. It makes a change in English football. In Holland I've played for Ajax, Vollenand and Fortuna Sittard. I played against Geulit when he was in that role for PSV Eindhoven and because he likes to go forward it leaves some holes in defence.

sure, but the things he does and the way he shows in attack make him a great player. His teams allow him to make a few mistakes in defence because there are so many advantages to his play.

Although I haven't been following my team too closely - I've been too busy with my own football to worry about them - it was good to see Dennis Bergkamp score his first goal. Good for him and good for me to get a few points. Because he did so well in pre-season matches, against Swedish opposition, people expected him

to repeat that level of performance straight away in the Premiership, but it isn't always that easy.

As a foreign player coming to England it takes time to settle. It takes time to adapt even just to the pace of the game. On the Continent you can play the ball around and wait for an opportunity but if you do that here the spectators start shouting at you. If a club pays £3 million, £4 million or £5 million for a player they expect to be paid back immediately. The clubs and the fans don't care about your wife and kids, about adapting to a new language and a new culture, they just want to see you win. And as a foreign player I think the fans expect more of you than of an English player.

But football in England has always been attractive. On the Continent they always used to think of the British as kick-and-rush players, that they didn't have anyone who could play the ball. Of course that isn't true, you only have to look at guys like Ryan Giggs to see that. But I think the clubs want to change that

image. And maybe the foreign players will have an effect on the English. Look at Newcastle - who doesn't want to imitate Gino? In five or ten years I think you will see more players like that around in England, so maybe Foreign United will do some good.

Goalkeeper: H Segers (Wimbledon)		£1.5m
Full back: M Hottiger (Newcastle)		£3m
N Cox (Middlesbrough)		£1m
Centre back: M Vink (Manchester City)		£1m
K Marlow (Southampton)		£1.5m
Midfielders: R Gull (Chelsea)		£4m
G Holder (Aston)		£4m
O Leunhansen (Wimbledon)		£2.5m
A Linper (Everton)		£2.5m
Striker: D Bergkamp (Arsenal)		£7.5m
B Roy (Nottingham Forest)		£5m
Manager: R McFarland (Bolton Wanderers)		£0.5m

30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D Mladetko	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	-1
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	0
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+1	0
30804	K Reedy	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	+1	+1
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
30902	A Thom	Wimbledon	0.75	-2	-1
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-2	-7
31001	K Moniku	Southampton	1.50	0	-6
31002	A Nelson	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	-4
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+10
31102	J Kjeldbjerg	Chelsea	1.50	0	-4
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+4	+11
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	-2
31201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	-2
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	-1	-13
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	-1	+9
31204	A Ungham	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	+2
31302	A Pearce	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-2
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	-7	-7
31402	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	0	0
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
31404	S Webster	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-3	+3
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-2	-2
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	-4
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-2
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	-2	-2
31604	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-11
31701	K Currie	Manchester City	1.50	-3	-5
31702	A McManaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1
31703	M Venn	Manchester City	1.00	0	0
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-2	-6
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+16
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+10
31803	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+3	+13
31804	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+19
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+14
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-2
32002	C Caldwell	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-11
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-2
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

40102	D Butty	Blackburn Rovers			
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers			
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers			
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers			
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers			
40108	L Males	Blackburn Rovers			
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers			
40201	R Gliggs	Manchester United			
40202	R Keane	Manchester United			
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United			
40205	N Butt	Manchester United			
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United			
40207	S Davies	Manchester United			
40301	L Bohlen	Nottingham Forest			
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest			
40303	I Woon	Nottingham Forest			
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest			
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest			
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest			
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest			
40401	S McManis	Liverpool			



## NEWS

## Brown aims to cut fuel VAT to 5%

■ Labour would make cutting VAT on fuel to 5 per cent a top priority, Gordon Brown said, challenging Kenneth Clarke to reduce the tax in the November Budget.

The Shadow Chancellor surprised the Labour conference by signalling that he would cut VAT on power to the lowest rate allowed under European Union rules — a move that would save the average family about £32 a year. Pages 1, 6, 7

## Oxford may sue private college

■ Oxford University is threatening legal action against a private college based outside the city where 15 American students have walked out claiming they were misled into believing they were joining the university. The students, who paid up to £13,290, are pursuing legal action of their own in America. Page 1

## Trimble in Dublin

David Trimble injected new life into the peace process when he became the first leader of the Ulster Unionists in 30 years to hold talks in Dublin with the Irish Prime Minister. Page 2

## Widow's house battle

A woman whose house was repossessed when her husband died has agreed a settlement of £33,493 with the building society and solicitors she blamed for making her homeless. Page 2

## Donor sperm dispute

A man whose daughter was conceived in a test tube using donor sperm is challenging a Child Support Agency claim. Page 3

## Affairs at work

Two women managers who had affairs with their married boss and who were both made redundant when the affairs ended are taking him to an industrial tribunal. Page 3

## Lottery winners

A visionary theme park in Yorkshire and a futuristic 540ft observation tower at Portsmouth are the first landmark projects to receive Lottery money from the Millennium Commission. Page 4

## Late justice

A poll tax rioter who was filmed hurling a pole into a police car during the Trafalgar Square riots was jailed five and a half years after the event. Page 5

## Rider wins gold while pregnant

■ Mary King, Britain's top three-day-eventer, led Britain to the team gold at the Open European Championships in Italy without telling her teammates that she was five months pregnant. King entrusted her secret only to her family, doctor and groom, has astonished the equestrian world who watched her tackle one of the sport's toughest courses. Page 1

## Macabre trial

A macabre murder trial in which a British man is accused of chopping up a tourist using butchery skills he learned in prison opened in Singapore. Page 8

## Earthquake rescue

Civil defence workers in Dinar in western Turkey struggled to shift rubble from a town virtually destroyed by an earthquake which killed at least 57 people and injured 200. Page 10

## Nuclear fallout

France's latest nuclear test cast a pall over a European ministers' session in Luxembourg, clouding talk of an Atlantic free trade area and adding to a malaise over the Union's direction. Page 13

American clampdown America has ordered its toughest security clampdown since the Gulf War to prevent reprisals over the conviction of a Muslim fundamentalist leader. Page 12

## Decaying fleet

Andrei Kozhev, the Russian Foreign Minister, has talks in Norway that may be decisive in showing how far Moscow will go to avert a catastrophe in its decaying Arctic fleet. Page 12

## Nigeria in dock

The Nigerian Government was accused of playing games after television showed excerpts of a secret coup plot trial after sentences were commuted. Page 13



Dudley Moore at the Guildhall School of Music yesterday — where he studied as a teenager — to announce CD and television projects.

## BUSINESS

Power: Southern Electric, the regional electricity company for a large chunk of Southern England, agreed to a £2.8 billion takeover bid by National Power. Page 25

Housing: House prices inched up last month but the increase is unlikely to signal a recovery in the property market. Britain's top two building societies said. Page 25

Telecoms: Cable and Wireless, the British based telecommunications group, is considering partnerships with the American "Baby Bell" telecoms companies to try to build up its US presence. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 12 to 3520.2. Sterling's index rose from 84.7 to 85.2 after a rise from \$1.5825 to \$1.5885 and from DM2.2547 to DM2.2696. Page 28

## SPORTS

Football: Les Ferdinand, of Newcastle United, and Gareth Southgate, of Aston Villa, have been included in England's 20-strong squad for the match against Norway next week. Page 48

Golf: Sam Torrance has been confirmed in the 12-man field for the Toyota World Match Play Championship but Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam are absent. Page 43

Motor racing: Nigel Mansell said that he was considering several offers. His route back into top competition seems certain to come from America. Page 48

Cycling: A meeting in Manchester featuring the return to racing of the Olympic champion Chris Boardman, has been cancelled because of poor ticket sales. Page 48

## NOTES

Not so miserable now: Despite a scathing reception from most critics, the musical *Les Misérables* survived, prospered, and this week celebrates ten years in the West End. Page 34

Into the Shell: A plan to convert one of the Shell Buildings on the South Bank in London into a new centre for the performing arts will be launched today. Page 34

Out of Africa: "It is time to savour the art of Africa in its own right," writes Richard Cork, after visiting the superb new Royal Academy show. Page 35

Pioneer returns: At the age of 70, the pioneering British choreographer Robert Cohan has never been busier. Page 36

## LIBBY PURVES

Humans want to understand human behaviour, and nothing is harder to understand than marriage. It is so mysterious that we long for living specimens to observe. Page 16

## ROGER BOYES

In Germany, the surrender of the mark and the acceptance of an inflationary European economy seems more damaging to bankers, business, and the general public, than the risk that France and Germany will drift apart unless they are trusted together in a single currency. Page 16

## PETER RIDDELL

Gordon Brown is now back on his most authoritative form. He will be crucial to the success of any Labour Government. Page 7

Professor Michael Balfour, historian and civil servant; Sidney Pettie, former head, West London Synagogue; Monica Maurice, former chairman, Wolf Safety Lamp Company. Page 19

"Death on the Rock" verdict: scale of home ownership. Page 17

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